Hafa Adai!

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'Bill to increase tobacco taxes will disenfranchise poor'. Page 7

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Many CNMI patients have to move to get life-saving access to dialysis

CARLO DOMINGO/CIVIL BEAT/2022

Abraham Taimanao hammers two sheets of tin to make a roof for the chicken coop he is building.

» One in five Indigenous Chamorros in the Northern Mariana Islands has diabetes, and the demand for dialysis is growing. But the only dialysis centers are on the capital island of Saipan.

By ANITA HOFSCHNEIDER
CIVIL BEAT

Editor's Note: This story was originally published by Civil Beat. Read the original article here: https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/09/many-pacific-islander-patients-have-to-move-to-get-life-saving-access-to-dialysis/ Reprinted with permission. Most of the article's original style is retained.

AS LITO, Saipan—Abraham Taimanao leans over two pieces of tin and lifts his hammer to flatten them together.

The tin is intended for the roof of a new chicken coop that Taimanao has been building, near rows of hot pepper plants and other plants he's been cultivating.

This isn't Taimanao's land. He's not exactly sure who owns it. But the 60-year-old comes here every day because it reminds him of his real home—his farm on the island of Rota, nearly a half-

See DIALYSIS on Page 2

House minority awaits Ethics Committee meeting on 2 complaints against Propst

» Ethics Committee's last meeting was Feb. 17, 2022
» 2 complaints filed in November and December 2021

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Propst

The House of Representatives' minority members are still waiting for Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the House Official Conduct and Ethics Committee, to set a

See HOUSE on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board approved Tuesday afternoon the designated polling places on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the Nov. 8 general elections.

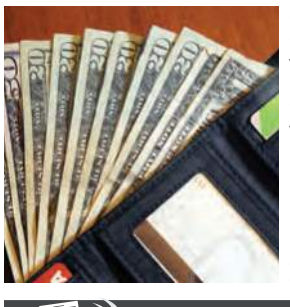
See CEC on Page 4

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol inspects Tuesday a ballot box inside CEC's conference room in Susupe. CEC's conference room is the designated polling site for early voting for Northern Islands.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CEC board OKs designated polling places

INSIDE



BUSINESS
You know credit scores exist. But do you know how it's calculated? Here's an explanation.

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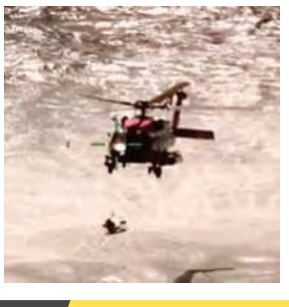

NATION
Two anglers whose boat sank over the weekend clung to a float and fought off sharks.

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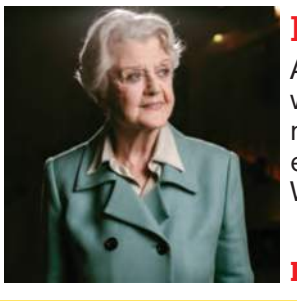

LIFE & STYLE
Angela Lansbury, who solved endless murders as crime novelist in "Murder, She Wrote," has died.

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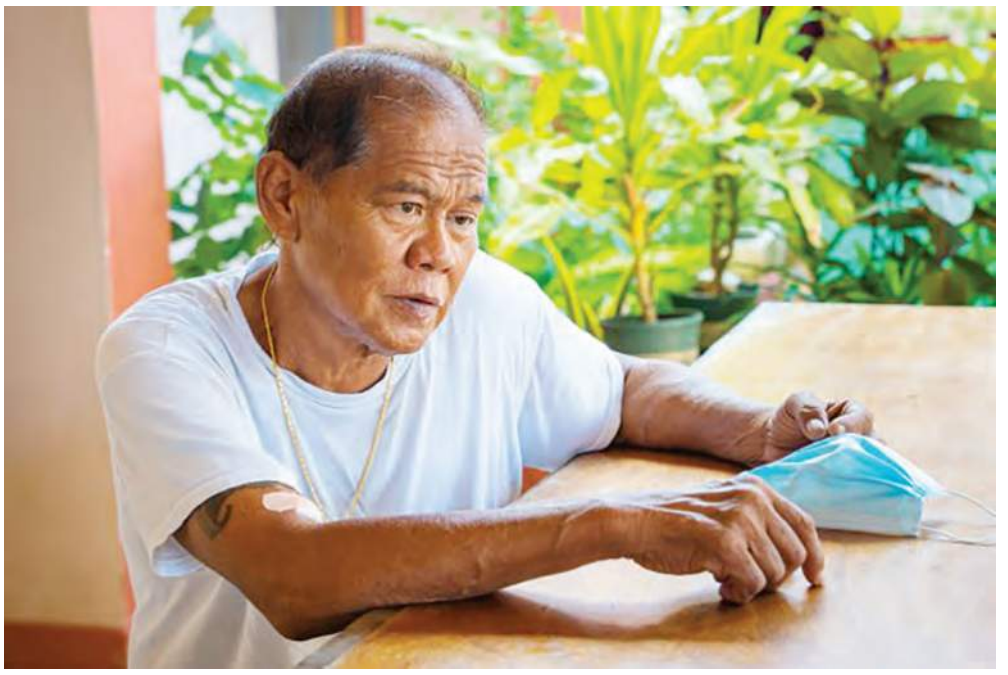
Local



Jesus Cruz pays $91 every weekend to fly home to Tinian because he can't stand being far away. Other patients aren't able to afford that.

CARLO DOMINGO/CIVIL BEAT/2022

DIALYSIS

From Page 1

hour flight away.

"I come out here just to give me a peace of mind, not thinking about dialysis, not thinking about anything else, but to enjoy life like what I usually do [on] Rota," says Taimanao.

Across the street is the concrete building that Taimanao and other dialysis patients have called home ever since they were told that they needed to get dialysis three times a week to survive.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the only dialysis centers are on the capital island of Saipan. Neighbor island residents from Tinian and Rota, most of them Indigenous Chamorros, move to Saipan to access the life-saving care.

Tinian is home to around 3,000 residents, while Rota's population is about 1,800. Nearly two dozen of them are living on Saipan solely to get dialysis.

Diabetes, the leading cause of kidney failure, is a huge problem in the U.S. territory, especially among its Pacific Islander communities. One 2016 survey, the latest such survey available, estimated while the diabetes rate was 12.5% among all Commonwealth adults, the figure was as high as one in five Chamorro adults and about a third of all adults over the age of 65.

The prevalence of diabetes in the Northern Marianas is driving up the demand for dialysis. In 2018, Saipan's only hospital, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., had just over 100 dialysis patients, but now the number fluctuates between 170 and 180, says Nikki Villagomez, who leads the hospital's dialysis clinic.

"The increase of patients was steady for a long time. For some reason it kind of skyrocketed out of nowhere," Villagomez says. "I just see it increasing even more in the future."

Diabetes is a problem throughout the Pacific and forces people from many islands across the Micronesian region to move to Hawaii and elsewhere in the U.S. to access the necessary care.

In the Northern Marianas, the demand for dialysis on the neighbor islands hasn't yet been met by supply. Past efforts to open a center on Rota ran up against difficulties recruiting staff.

Congress has appropriated more than $500,000 of rural development funding to help patients conduct in-home dialysis, a growing national trend. But many patients from Tinian and Rota who live on Saipan say they fear infections if they're performing dialysis by themselves, and what they crave is safe access to a doctor and hemodialysis chairs back home.

In the meantime, many Tinian and Rota residents move to Saipan for care, leaving behind their homes, friends and family members, and the peace and familiarity of those smaller islands.

Dialysis on Saipan keeps patients like Taimanao alive, but at the cost of spending time with loved ones back home. They miss out on birthdays, holidays and traditional ceremonies like the nine-day Chamorro rosaries held to honor deceased relatives and village saints. The longest any dialysis patient can be away from the machines is four days.

Many are following the same path their parents took. Taimanao visited his mother on dialysis on Saipan for 20 years before she was buried back on Rota. He hopes his children and grandchildren don't end up like him.

'You have to go'

On Rota, Taimanao hunted coconut crabs and deer, went fishing and caught sea crabs to feed his family. When he found out that he would be forced to move to Saipan, he asked his wife, "Where are we going to get the resources to meet our kids' needs?" Saipan has different rules for fishing than Rota, and Taimanao wasn't sure where he'd be allowed to hunt coconut crabs.

"We have to go because it's for your health," his wife replied. That wasn't an answer to his question, but she reminded him that staying would mean dying, which would mean saying goodbye to his kids.

"I still want to see my kids," he told her.

"You have to go," she concluded.

Similar conversations have played out in many other patients' homes. Jesus Cruz remembers how his father moved back to Tinian after five years and decided to move back home, even if it meant dying.

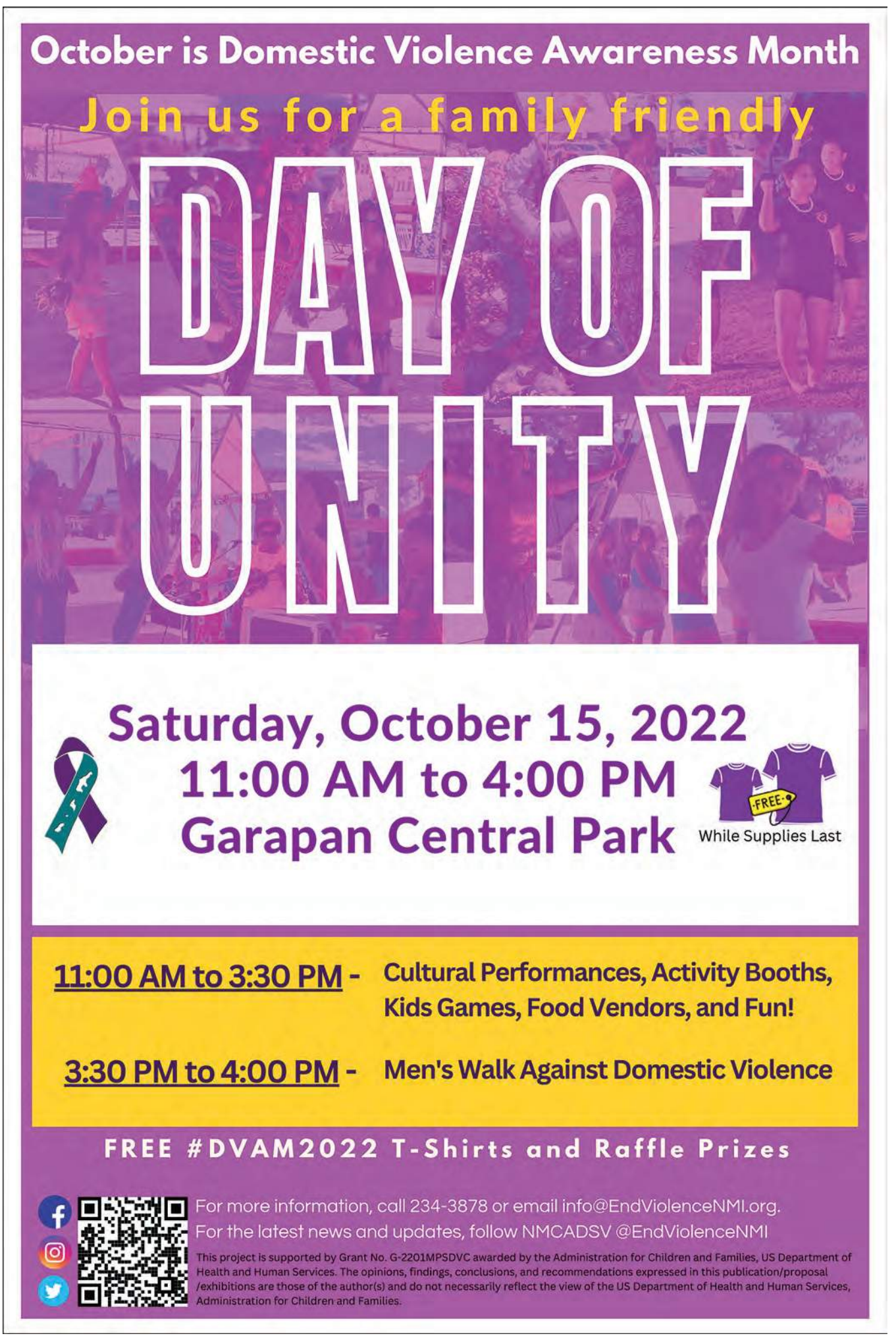
His father didn't want to financially burden his family by requiring them to pay for flights to Saipan, a hotel and rental car if he were hospitalized in the intensive care unit.

"It cost money. So my dad said never mind," Cruz, now 60, said. The family gathered on Tinian by his dad's bedside when he died in 1998.

Several years later when Cruz was told he needed to get dialysis, he spent four years trying to avoid it because he didn't want to leave his house and life on Tinian. His kids and grandkids pressured him to go get the treatment.

"I'm doing this for them," says Cruz, sitting at a picnic table in the courtyard of the apartment complex dedicated to patients like himself. "Not for me."

Continued on Next Page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This project is supported by Grant No. G-2201MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal /exhibitions are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Continued from Page 2

The municipal governments of Tinian and Rota provide studio apartments for patients including Taimanao and Cruz to live in rent-free. They cover the cost of utilities and transportation to and from appointments. Patients get $100 monthly stipends, which helps because their dialysis schedules and health problems make it difficult to work. Currently 13 patients from Tinian and nine from Rota are receiving such services.

The patients are grateful for the help, but it's not the same as home. On Tinian, Cruz raised 80 pigs on his farm where he also grew bananas, tangerines, and lemon trees and had countless chickens. Since he left, the farm turned back into a jungle.

On Saipan, his days are filled with dialysis and chronic pain. He pays $91 for a roundtrip ticket back to Tinian every weekend because he can't stand being away. He estimates he has spent about $26,000 on plane tickets alone over the past six and a half years. His wife stayed on Tinian and when the pandemic shut down interisland travel, he couldn't see her for four months.

"I want to feel like I'm home," he said. "This is not a home for me. I don't call this home."

Failed attempts to open a dialysis center

Sen. Paul Manglona, who represents Rota in the Commonwealth Legislature, has been trying to establish a dialysis center for his constituents for more than a decade. In the mid-2000s, lawmakers appropriated $1.5 million to renovate a wing of the Rota Health Center.

The building was complete with a reverse osmosis machine to treat the water and room for at least four dialysis chairs. But Manglona said the space never got up and running because of lack of staff.

It's still empty and unused. A 2012 analysis found the space would need a lot more renovations before it could be operational.

Manglona wishes that the local hospital could partner with a company to start up a new center.

U.S. Renal Care, a national dialysis company, previously ran five dialysis centers on Guam before selling them all in January 2020 to Fresenius, which operates Liberty dialysis centers and is one of the largest dialysis companies in the U.S.

Pliny Arenas, who leads the Hawaii region for U.S. Renal Care, said that before the sale, the company looked into potentially opening a dialysis center on Rota. But it didn't proceed because of the challenging logistics of getting supplies from the mainland to Rota.

Scott Sayres, spokesman for Fresenius, said the possibility of opening up dialysis centers in the CNMI is under evaluation.

"We constantly evaluate opportunities to expand our services for patients," he said. "Many factors go into those evaluations, including what's best for patients, staffing needs and business requirements."

Staffing needs aren't a small issue. Esther Muña, executive director of the common-

See DIALYSIS on Next Page

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16P433 2016 ELANTRA SE $15,667 $14,995
17P334A 2017 MAZDA3 SPORT $17,937 $13,995
22H195A 2016 MAZDA6 GT $18,363 $15,995
16P360 2016 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING $21,604 $16,995
15P348 2015 MAZDA CX-9 TOURING $21,604 $16,995
14P342A 2016 TOYOTA COROLLA SE $18,277 $16,995
17P365 2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL $19,752 $17,995
16P487A 2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX $19,269 $17,995
17P422 2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX $18,843 $17,995
17P505 2017 BUICK VERANO $18,265 $17,995
18P393 2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV $22,661 $19,995
19P488A 2016 NISSAN FRONTIER SV $24,900 $23,995
22H175A 2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SPORT $35,480 $27,995
15P498 2015 SCION FRS COUPE N/A $28,995
12C015A 2017 NISSAN 370Z TOURING $33,080 $29,995
16P501 2016 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 $43,154 $42,995
21H096D 2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED $55,838 $43,995
21P502 2021 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 $52,486 $49,995
2011 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
SALE PRICE $9,995
• MILES: 53,107 • KBB: $15,475 • STK: 22H183A
2016 SCION IM HATCHBACK
SALE PRICE $19,995
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DIALYSIS

From Page 3

wealth's hospital, estimates the public dialysis center on Saipan is operating at 80% staffing because of the need for more nurses.

The center has just one nephrologist that it must share with two private dialysis clinics on island. Muña said the cost of hiring another nephrologist could run higher than $300,000 a year. That doesn't include wraparound services like dietitians and social workers.

She said the facility may become ready, but it's difficult to pay staff enough to retain them.

"You can provide those services, but then you're not going to have the stability to continuously provide those services," she said.

Manglona is frustrated telemedicine can't provide more options, and is convinced patients who moved to the states for dialysis would return home to Rota if it had a local clinic.

"Why can't we have the nephrologist here go to Rota every week, every two weeks?" he asks during an interview at a restaurant on Saipan. "We'll never make it possible if there's no political will to support it."

The issue has become more personal to the senator in the last couple of years since his wife was ordered to get on dialysis.

He tried to bring her to Washington state to live with their daughter there to get a kidney transplant, but the closest available dialysis seat was an hour's drive away, so they moved back to the CNMI.

Rose Sylvia San Nicolas describes how Tinian is different from Saipan as she holds her dog outside her apartment where she has been living on Saipan for over a year. She grows Chamorro medicinal plants such as korason gala on her lanai.

CARLO DOMINGO/CIVIL BEAT/2022

A home away from home

Some patients who moved to Saipan have found ways to adjust.

"See, I've got my onions here, and my hot pepper and this flower the old lady gave me this one, si Auntie Rose," Harold Manglona says as he points to different pots of plants lined up in the courtyard.

The Rota native is standing outside of his studio apartment on Saipan in the complex where he lives with Cruz and Taimanao.

Harold Manglona, 55, a cousin of the senator, has been on Saipan for dialysis for five years.

He initially planned to refuse the treatment, but his siblings persuaded him to do dialysis for his children and grandchildren.

Both his parents were diabetic. Manglona was 49 when he realized he was diabetic too.

He can usually only afford to go to Rota once per year. Tickets are $241 roundtrip per person for locals, or close to $500 if he and his wife travel together.

The 55-year-old retired firefighter decorates the table next to his front door with pictures drawn by his 11-year-old granddaughter. He visits his wife's relatives on Saipan and goes for walks along the marina or in the big stores that he wouldn't find on Rota. He dances in the courtyard sometimes to make his fellow patients laugh and temporarily forget their *minahalang*, the Chamorro word for the feeling of missing something.

"I keep myself busy to forget what I left out [on] Rota. I'm getting used to Saipan life," Manglona says as he sits outside his studio apartment. "I got a lot of friends here now."

Like Taimanao and Cruz, Manglona left behind his farm when he moved. His son sold Manglona's cows to afford tickets for his family to visit Manglona on Saipan for Christmas.

No local transplant center

For many people with kidney failure, dialysis isn't the only answer—kidney transplants are another option. They're harder to get, but every year in the U.S. thousands of patients do.

That doesn't feel like an option to many patients from Rota and Tinian, who are unfamiliar with the requirements of getting a transplant and concerned about the costs to do so.

"Am I too old for that?" wonders Rose Sylvia San Nicolas, who moved to Saipan from Tinian. She's 47. "I don't know. I have to move to the states, that's another move."

The Transplant Center at The Queen's Medical Center in Hawaii will sometimes perform transplants on patients even in their 70s, if they're otherwise healthy. It's the only transplant center in the Pacific Rim.

Since 2012, the center has performed transplants for 11 patients from Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa. Over that time period 20 patients from the Federated States of Micronesia and 11 from the Marshall Islands also got transplants.

The center does not have data on whether any patients from Rota or Tinian have ever received kidney transplants.

Alan Cheung, medical director at Queen's Transplant Center, said most patients are waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor and the center tells patients to move to Hawaii about six months ahead of when they expect to get a kidney. Most end up staying.

"With the flights available, it is logistically impossible, for instance, for patients from Saipan to fly to Oahu in time for transplant surgery from the time they get the deceased organ offer," he said. "For this reason, we require patients to relocate to Hawaii when they get towards the top of the waiting list."

Patients will also need to stay in Hawaii for a year after the transplant for post-transplant care, Cheung added.

Cruz says he's not willing to move to Hawaii for the slim chance that he could get a new kidney. It was hard enough to move to Saipan. His son even offered to donate his kidney, but Cruz said no because he is afraid his son's other kidney might fail and that his son could end up on dialysis like his father, uncle and grandfather.

Even if insurance covered most of the transplant itself, moving to Hawaii would be expensive and require covering the high cost of rent and food in the state. Manglona has thought about trying to get a transplant but says he'd rather save his money to give to his kids and grandkids.

The Commonwealth's medical referral program—which helps many patients access health care in the states—doesn't support patients moving for transplants because getting one requires such a long wait, said Villagomez, the Saipan dialysis center director.

Another option: At-home dialysis

Muña thinks the answer for patients living on Tinian and Rota lies in at-home dialysis.

Peritoneal dialysis is a form of at-home dialysis that patients can do themselves by sticking a tube in their abdomen that filters blood. At home hemodialysis, which is an option in Hawaii, is not an option on Rota or Tinian, Villagomez said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan asked for $391,500 for peritoneal dialysis on Rota in the 2022 budget and another $389,250 for Tinian this year.

He said he put in the request at the urging of Muña, the hospital executive director. The hospital has about a dozen peritoneal dialysis patients, up from previous years, but is hoping to expand the program.

But first the hospital will have to overcome patients' fears. Many of those staying on Saipan know people who got sick with infections after trying out peritoneal dialysis and those stories have discouraged them from trying themselves. Part of their concern is the lack of a real hospital on Tinian or Rota—an infection could require getting an emergency evacuation to the hospital on Saipan.

Plus, not everyone is qualified for peritoneal dialysis. Doctors have to certify that patients are not only physically capable of it but have enough space in their homes to do so.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

meeting regarding the two complaints filed against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

House minority leader Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said Tuesday that he has not heard of any schedule of the committee's meeting yet.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) also said yesterday that he has not heard anything from Manglona.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said Tuesday that he does not know about the meeting schedule.

Manglona has yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s question as to when is he is going to set a meeting.

Last Sept. 16, Manglona told the media that he is going to call a meeting only after the passage of the budget bill for the government's operations in fiscal year 2023.

The Legislature passed the budget bill last Sept. 30. The following day, Oct. 1, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the budget bill into law.

Manglona, who also chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, was the author of the House budget bill version.

A lawmaker, who requested anonymity, urged Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence executive director Maisie B. Tenorio yesterday to speak up about Propst's case.

The Ethics Committee held their last meeting on Feb. 17, 2022, in which the members decided to move forward with the complaints against Propst.

The committee had agreed to get more information on one of the complaints against Propst and to proceed with the investigation on another complaint.

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae filed the first complaint in November 2021 over allegations that Propst had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College.

Vaiagae is a counselor and advocate for the rights of abused women.

The second complaint was filed in December 2021 by Robert H. Hunter, who is the former senior policy adviser at the Office of the Governor.

Hunter filed the complaint over Propst's remarks that circulated on social media where he allegedly made physical threats and used inappropriate language against Hunter and other people.

Propst has denied the allegations in Vaiagae's complaint. He called Hunter a cyber bully.

Propst, who chairs the House Gaming Committee and is representing Precinct 1, is seeking re-election in the upcoming Nov. 8 general elections.

CEC

From Page 1

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said the board approved the designated polling places during a meeting presided over by commission chair Jesus I. Sablan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Igitol said the polling places on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during election day will open at 7am and close at 7pm on the same day.

For early voting on Saipan, the polling place is the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

For early voting on Tinian, the polling site is the Tinian Department of Public Safety Administrtion Office in San Jose.

For early voting on Rota, the poling place is the Rota DPS in Songsong.

Early voting on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be from Oct. 23 to Nov. 7 between 8:30am and 4pm.

Early voting in the Northern Islands started last Sept. 23 at the CEC conference room in Susupe. From Nov. 1 to 7, early voting on Northern Islands will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The polling places during election day are the following:

Election District	Polling Place
Precinct 1A (San Antonio)	Hopwood Junior High
Precinct 1B-1 (San Vicente)	Dandan Middle School
Precinct 1B-2 (Dandan)	Dandan Middle School
Precinct 1C (Koblerville)	Koblerville Youth Center
Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa)	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Precinct 3A (San Jose)	Oleai Elementary School
Precinct 3B-1 (Garapan)	Garapan Elementary School
Precinct 3B-2 (Garapan)	Garapan Elementary School
Precinct 4A (Tanapag)	Tanapag Youth Center
Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matuis)	Gregorio Camacho Elementary School
Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill)	Jesus Mafnas Legislative Building
Precinct 4D (Northern Islands)	Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrigan
Precinct 5-1 (Kagman)	Chacha Oceanview Middle School
Precinct 5-2 (Kagman)	Chacha Oceanview Middle School
Precinct 6 (Tinian and Aguiguan)	Tinian Elementary School
Precinct 7 (Rota)	Rota Northern Marianas College

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RFP23-OPA-01

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: October 28, 2022 | TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 and 2023"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MS. DORA I. DELEON GUERRERO, TEMPORARY PUBLIC AUDITOR, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR VIA EMAIL TO mail@opacnmi.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

OPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OPA. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSERS.

/s/ DORA I. DELEON GUERRERO, CPA
TEMPORARY PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Christmas decorating contest for schools, businesses

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers recently launched the Christmas Decorating Contest for schools and businesses. This holiday season, school groups/organizations and businesses in the CNMI are invited to make the Marianas festive and decorative by cleaning, beautifying, and decorating their school campuses and businesses. Christmas decoration entries will be accepted from now until Dec. 30, 2022.

To enter, participants must take a minimum of three photos that showcases their lights and decorations. The entries will be scored by a panel of judges according to criteria such as "Beautification," "Creativity," and "Festivity," and bonus for using recycled, repurposed, or upcycled materials in their décor. Schools will win education tax credit award and businesses will win hardware store credit.

The deadline for photo submissions to the gceacnmi@gmail.com is on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. Final entries will be uploaded on the GCEA Facebook page by Jan. 03, 2023. Winners will be announced on Jan. 13, 2023, but prizes will be awarded during the end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

About the Council

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' mission is to provide objective advice to CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to ensure that future economic decisions and programs are aligned to improve the quality of life throughout The Marianas. GCEA's Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support throughout the community. Volunteers and partners are welcome. For more information, visit cnmieconomy.com or engage with the GCEA on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or by email at gceacnmi@gmail.com. ***(GCEA)***

Self-defense training for Girl Scouts

Some members of the CNMI Girl Scouts recently participated in a self defense session last Oct, 8, 2022, Saturday, at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan under the supervision of mixed martial arts instructor Cuki Alvarez.

The self-defense session was part of the Girl Scouts' aim to empower its members to make healthier choices, build self-confidence in making new friends, and learn some cool self-defense techniques.

Led by Reina Camacho and troop leader Jessy Loomis., the Girl Scouts who participated included Gianna Moses, Vangelyn Serrano, Emma Lee, Jacqueline Iris Quitugua, Ariah Jade Villagomez, Mayumi Sato, Imani Camacho, Crystin Pangelinan, Makenna Pangelinan, Baila Marie Loomis, and Kyrie Palec.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mixed martial arts instructor Cuki Alvarez, kneeling center, led the self defense class for the CNMI Girl Scouts during a session last Oct, 8, 2022, Saturday, at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Recruitment is open

Saipan Troop 29001 is recruiting for 2022-2023. They will be meeting once per month, usually on the second Saturday of the month.

The NMI Girl Scouts is a multi-level troop that is open to all from kindergarten to grade 12. It is aimed at providing safe learning activities for scouts to have fun, make new friends, and learn life skills.

Participation is not mandatory, and additional events can be arranged, provided there is sufficient interest from the scouts as well as adult volunteers. Each event is unique and worthwhile.

The registration fee is $25 per scout, plus a $20 council fee. The total annual registration cost for a girl scout, grades K through 12, is $45. The registration fee is $25 for adult volunteers, parents, relatives, female or male, who want to be part of Girl Scouts. Visit usagso.org for more information on joining or supporting your local Troop 29001. ***(PR)***

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  1. September 13, 2022 - Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- a. Casino License
  - 1) Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
- b. Proposal for the Amendment of the TCGCC By-Laws

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Proposed TCGCC Resolution No. 2022-002

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

‘Bill to increase tobacco taxes will disenfranchise the poor’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Asserting that it will be disenfranchising poor people in the community, Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) is strongly opposed to a bill that seeks to bring tobacco taxes to the recommended level, tie the tax rate to inflation, and invest revenues from the tax into health promotion and disease prevention.

Appearing online at a public hearing on House Bill 22-54 at the Rota Mayor’s Office conference hall that was conducted by the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, King-Nabors suggested that a better approach would be incentivizing people to purchase items that are healthier, reducing the costs of living to live a healthier life, as opposed to taxing tobacco and beverage products.

“I think it’s very important that we understand what this tax is asking. So when we’re talking about whether it’s sugar beverage, or alcohol tax, there are so many unintended consequences to the bill that’s being proposed,” the senator said.

The House had already passed the bill and it is now before the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs. Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) is the principal author of the legislation.

The bill seeks to update the definition of tobacco products in the CNMI’s excise tax laws; bring tobacco tax rates to the recommended level; set tobacco tax rates to increase with inflation; and invest tobacco tax revenues in health promotion and disease prevention and control programs in the CNMI.

At the end of the day, King-Nabors said, ultimately the people that are going to be affected by this legislation are those that don’t have the means, because it would raise taxes on tobacco and on sugar drinks.

“But I want to make it clear because it doesn’t spell it out in this legislation. What this legislation is hoping to do is curb diabetes, heart deficiencies, heart failure,” he said.

Medically speaking, King-Nabors said, a lot of these components have to do with people’s diets and own activities whether it be young adults or adults.

King-Nabors

“It isn’t just about purchasing 24 sodas at the store. No, it is disenfranchising the people that don’t have money in our community,” he said.

King-Nabors said he recently had a meeting with one House member who smokes. He said the lawmaker stated that he/she does not care how much they raise the tax on tobacco, as he/she is still going to buy it.

“That’s good for you to say because you have the means,” the senator said.

He said his overarching argument to those who don’t necessarily understand the full ramifications of this legislation is that it is going to affect everybody across the board.

Hypothetically, King-Nabors said, if it’s fine to tax beverages, how about taxing the icing on the cake for a daughter’s, nephew’s, or godson’s birthday.

“What about taxing the lechon (roasted pig)? What about taxing the pork and beef that add cholesterol that the House is so adamant about?” he asked, adding that the House underscored the need for this legislation so the government can take the money and give it to the healthcare system.

“But I’m telling you right now, what you’re doing is not going to save our healthcare system. Because you have a holistic problem, and just brought it down to sugar, brought it down to tobacco,” he said.

King-Nabors said if there is really a concern for the healthcare system, why are they not taxing betel nut, considering there is a high rate of oral cancer in the CNMI.

“They don’t want to touch betel nut for the very same reason why we all understand that this tax is fraudulent,” he said.

King-Nabors said people should instead be encouraged to walk, to eat a healthy diet, and lead healthy lives, as opposed to taxing those products.

“So now when I have my daughter’s birthday, it’s going to cost me $100 to buy one case of soda? That’s where we’re going to end up?” he asked.

‘Preptober’ continues

Come hang-out at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from 10am to 12pm on Oct. 15 and Oct. 23 for free writing preparatory sessions, help, encouragement, and some giveaways (notepads and pens), as aspiring writers get ready for National Novel Writing Month in November.

The Marianas Writers Movement (/marianaswritermovement.org) is sponsoring the NaNoWriMo prep sessions this month. They’re free. Under NaNoWriMo, the challenge is to write a 50,000 word novel in one month. It’s not too late to sign up for November 2022. Go to nanowrimo.org! It’s also free.

You’ve got nothing to lose! It’s fun! And imagine being able to tell everyone you’ve written a novel. Sign up at Nanowrimo.org. Come to the prep sessions at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. Win prizes, gain acclaim, and have fun! ***(PR)***

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, October 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.** at the **MVA Conference Room.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Old Business**
   a. PATA Annual Summit 2022
4) **New Business**
   a. Turkey Cross 2022
5) **Executive Session**
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's own record will be his worst enemy in lawsuit against CNN

Donald Trump followed through last week on his threat in July to sue CNN for libel. The network's coverage, Trump complains, has caused him to suffer "embarrassment, pain, humiliation and mental anguish." If those criteria are sufficient to qualify for a lawsuit, the entire nation should be suing Trump for exactly the same.

Trump embarrassed America before the world with his crass behavior and insulting language. He inflicted pain on immigrants at the border and used language that inspired followers to attack minorities. He inflicted withering humiliation on anyone who didn't display unquestioning loyalty to him, including his own vice president. The nation's collective mental anguish continues pretty much unabated to this day.

But America's grievances, substantial as they are, aren't before the court. Trump's lawsuit is. He asserts that CNN presenters and guest commentators undertook "a smear campaign to malign" Trump "with a barrage of negative associations and innuendos, broadcasting commentary that he is like a cult leader, a Russian lackey, a dog whistler to white supremacists, and a racist" whom the network compared to Adolf Hitler.

CNN probably did all those things, as did many other news outlets when describing the actual words spoken and actions taken by Trump during his White House tenure. It's not a smear campaign if Trump actually merited those comparisons. The long-standing Supreme Court rule for libel claims by public figures is that the plaintiff must prove the defendant had a "reckless disregard" for the truth. Trump must prove that CNN deliberately used false information to malign him. Trump also must meet the Supreme Court standard of proving "malice aforethought"—that the network used false information maliciously to destroy his reputation.

If the lawsuit proceeds, Trump can be expected to subpoena CNN staff emails, memos and other internal communications in which negative coverage of him is discussed. CNN presenters, many of whom qualify more as commentators than reporters, hardly gave the network a reputation for objectivity—something the network's new chief, Chris Licht, is trying to correct.

But Trump still has to meet the standard of proving deliberate falsity, and his own record promises to trip him up at every turn. He was a serial liar, especially regarding his assertion that the 2020 election was stolen from him. He behaved in public like a Russian lackey and invited Russia to meddle in U.S. elections. He described white supremacists

See CNN on Next Page

The government is actually doing a good job

By SHAR HABIBI
Progressive Perspectives

Shar Habibi is research and policy director of In the Public Interest, a non-profit organization that advocates for a government that works for all of us. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

You wouldn't know it from watching the news, but American children are doing better than they were at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, at least when it comes to having their basic needs met.

That's according to newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Even as the country suffered through a pandemic, global supply chain disruptions and rising inflation, child poverty rates declined to the lowest on record. As the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy concluded, much of this can be attributed to last year's expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

The child tax credit expansion ended at the beginning of this year. Now some elected leaders are proposing to reinstate the expanded tax credit and, unfortunately, fund it by cutting important tax benefits for low- and moderate-income families rather than making corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share in taxes.

Regardless of what decision Congress makes, the success of the expansion highlights something else you wouldn't know from watching the news: The federal government has demonstrably improved the lives of the vast majority of Americans over the last year and a half.

Whether it's $350 billion in budget relief for state and local governments or $1.2 trillion to fix the country's crumbling infrastructure, Washington has repeatedly stepped up to the plate and delivered. The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, for example, caps prescription drug prices for seniors and offers savings on energy bills, among other policies that will likely lower the rising cost of living.

What all that investment looks like across the country depends on the priorities of the state or local government.

Minnesota is addressing learning disruptions experienced by students during the pandemic. The past two summers, the state's children have had more opportunities for field trips, preschool programming, mental health services and tutoring. In Ohio, Cleveland's school district used American Rescue Plan funds to increase summer learning participation sevenfold.

Arkansas just committed $280 million in American Rescue Plan funds for infrastructure projects that will upgrade the state's outdated and failing water systems. These types of investments are especially important, given ongoing water crises in places like Jackson, Mississippi.

Wisconsin used federal money to strengthen its Worker Advancement Initiative, offering subsidized employment and skills training opportunities with local employers to unemployed workers. Federal support for similar programs nationwide surely has something to do with the economy's historically low unemployment rate.

To be sure, some states and localities have spent relief funds in ways that do not actually improve the lives of average Americans. At least 21 states used the money to replenish unemployment insurance funding, which — as the Economic Policy Institute notes — has little impact on economic growth and effectively amounts to a tax cut for corporations. Some local governments are even using funding to build and expand jails and prisons, rather than invest in education, affordable housing, job programs or other programs that address the root causes of crime.

No public program — like no corporate initiative — is perfect, but there are plenty of things happening nationwide that will benefit Americans.

When it comes to infrastructure, more than 5,000 projects backed with new federal money are already underway. Residents in states including California and Texas are accessing high-speed broadband internet access for the first time. State transportation officials are improving and expanding roadways, such as Pennsylvania's project to connect an unfinished rural highway with Maryland. The U.S. Forest Service is planting trees in areas burned by forest fires in the largest reforestation drive in the U.S. since the 1930s.

All of this counters a common attitude that the government is incompetent and that government programs make us less free. Certainly, things like corruption and over-policing can happen when public institutions are captured by the powerful few. But the last few years have shown what is possible when we make government work for us.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hurricane Ian and the coming climate crash

By EUGENE LINDEN
Los Angeles Times

Eugene Linden is the author, most recently, of Fire and Flood: A People's History of Climate Change, *from 1979 to the Present.*

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis called Hurricane Ian a "once in 500-year event."

If only. Floridians could then rebuild after Ian and return to business as usual.

Unfortunately, because of climate change, past weather patterns are becoming less and less useful for pricing future weather-related risks. Rather than 500-year events, biblical floods have become near annual events in the U.S.

Ian is the poster child of how recent hurricanes have been affected by climate change: rapid intensification, astounding rains related to very slow speed over land and extremely high wind speeds related to the energy supplied by the warming oceans. Rather than an anomaly, Ian shows us what happens when a society underprices climate risk.

As the frequency and intensity of economically destructive events such as storms, floods, fires, droughts and extreme temperatures increase, the risk rises of a climate-related repeat of the crash of 2008, with the difference being that the economic destruction will only increase in subsequent years.

With Ian, the most dramatic underestimation of risk took place in the central part of Florida. The hurricane crossed the state at the speed of a recreational jogger (the slowing speed of hurricanes relates to a loss of vigor in the steering winds, which in turn relates to the warming of the Arctic), a pace that led to astounding rainfall—28.6 inches in one spot.

Estimates of insured losses from the storm run to $63 billion, but it's the uninsured losses that will wreak economic havoc. For instance, the risk analysis company Verisk estimates inland Florida's insured losses from flooding to be about $1 billion. Sounds modest, but the number is so low because very few homeowners in central Florida have flood insurance. In Orlando the figure is 1.5%, suggesting that the losses that will be borne by homeowners and businesses in central Florida will run into the tens of billions.

Climate risk for those closer to the coast has also been underpriced for decades. After private insurers began pulling out of the state following a drumbeat of weather-related losses, Florida set up the Citizens Property Insurance Corp., as a backstop. It quickly became the largest insurer in the state, which is evidence that it underprices wind risk. Similarly, coastal flood risk from storms and sea level rise is backstopped—and underpriced—by U.S. taxpayers through the National Flood Insurance Program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency. NFIP is now more than $20 billion in debt despite having $16 billion in debt canceled by Congress as recently as 2017.

One result of underpricing risks is a flood of people moving to dangerous areas. According to census data, Lee County, home to Ian-devastated Fort Myers, has seen a 50% population increase since it was hit by Hurricane Charley in 2004; Miami Dade County has grown by 600,000 people since Hurricane Andrew did over $50 billion in damage there in 1992. In California, millions of people have moved into fire-prone zones since a megadrought began at the turn of the millennium.

Once upon a time, I expected the insurance industry would be the White Knight of climate change, simply because the industry relies on the proper estimation of risk. I underestimated the power of business as usual and the industry's genius at off-loading risk.

After Hurricane Andrew, for instance, the reinsurance industry began selling catastrophe bonds—so-called cat bonds—securities that paid a high interest rate for insuring a specific risk for a limited time period. (Ian threatens this market, as the storm will visit huge losses on cat bonds tied to named storms hitting Florida.) Moreover, most property insurance policies are renewable on a yearly basis, which gives private insurers the option of raising rates or pulling out of a market.

Finally , after years of record losses tied to weather and climate, insurers are beginning to act as they should have done long ago. After a succession of record-breaking fires in the West, insurers have stopped offering policies in the most vulnerable areas. California has slowed this exodus by imposing a moratorium on insurance cancellation for ZIP Codes covered by fire-related emergency declarations. Nonetheless, major insurers such as AIG have pulled out of the state, leaving homeowners with skyrocketing rates in the private market or fire insurance from a bare-bones backstop supplied by the state.

So long as the burden of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to increase, the already identified climate risks to the economy will continue to increase, new unanticipated risks will emerge and the cost of insuring those risks will rise, perhaps rapidly to catch up with decades of underpricing. At some point, rates will become unaffordable for the average American in an expanding number of counties vulnerable to one or several climate-related risks, and/or the taxpayers will rebel against paying for those risks for those who persist in living in harm's way.

The multitrillion-dollar question looming over our future is whether the nation can begin an orderly adjustment to this new reality, or whether that adjustment will be forced as the result of a housing crash and economic crisis.

OPEC's move to raise oil prices is all about Russia

By SIMON JOHNSON
Los Angeles Times

Simon Johnson is a professor at MIT Sloan and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund.

On Wednesday, OPEC+ announced a dramatic reduction in production quotas, by 2 million barrels per day. According to oil ministers, the goal is to boost crude prices and "encourage investment" in the sector—making it sound like they are doing the world a favor. In fact, this is an extraordinarily harmful step that will push oil prices up—when the global economy is in a precarious state amid persistent inflation pressures.

Americans may first notice the effects at the gas pump, especially Californians already affected by some refinery shutdowns. Gasoline prices hit record highs in Los Angeles last week. A cut to global oil supply usually translates into even steeper increases in fuel prices and rising costs for goods.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has no incentive to drive the world into deep recession, so what are its members thinking?

Pushing up oil prices at this moment is an expression of support for OPEC+ member Russia, presumably aiming to build a deeper relationship between this major oil producer and core OPEC member states, most of which are in Africa and the Middle East.

That strategy already appears thoroughly wrongheaded. The likelihood of Russian defeat in Ukraine, increasing daily with Ukrainian advances, will change the global picture for oil considerably, and OPEC members need to decide whose side they are on for what comes next.

If you question Russia's fate on the battlefield, look carefully at reports from the front lines from Russian military bloggers on Telegram and other messaging channels. It is an interesting irony that Ukraine, a free country with a free press, has strong operational discipline when it comes to the use of social media close to the conflict—and it's from Russia, an authoritarian country with tightly state controlled and censored media, that we see a flood of videos, text updates and maps that show what is really going on.

If OPEC's leaders were paying attention, they would see that Russian forces are in the process of being defeated in several regions in the air and on the ground. The Ukrainians have more drones, better armor, longer-range artillery and higher morale. Russian forces are greatly depleted and increasingly in danger of becoming trapped and overwhelmed on multiple fronts.

The Kremlin's recent "mobilization" has pulled men into recruitment centers, but there are widespread complaints about the lack of food, clothing and particularly weapons. Russian industry is incapable of equipping these forces effectively in the near term.

By now, OPEC should be fully aware that the Group of Seven nations (G-7) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization are completely committed to Ukraine. While support may have been soft before the invasion, Russian atrocities and belligerent escalation mean that the U.S. and the European Unione as well as their allies now want Ukraine to win—and then to rebuild, as much as possible, the lives, homes and economic activities that have been destroyed.

Even after it is defeated, Russia will pose a threat to the reconstruction of Ukraine, through missile strikes or even another invasion. NATO will need to provide security guarantees of some kind, to keep that threat at bay. But Ukraine's friends will also need to limit the flow of hard currency to Russia to constrain what Russia can buy from abroad—including parts for missiles, aircraft and tanks—and build for themselves.

By cutting off natural gas supplies to Europe, the Russian authorities have demonstrated they cannot be trusted as a long-term supplier through dedicated pipelines. Russia will therefore become even more dependent on oil exports transported by ship and sold in spot markets. That's why OPEC's recent decision to drive up crude prices should be seen as a gift to Russia.

Russia is the third-largest oil producer in the world, after the U.S. and Saudi Arabia—and the second-largest exporter, behind only the Saudis. To curtail the resources available to support the Russian war effort, the G-7 has proposed a cap on how much buyers can pay for Russian oil exports, if they want to use Western financial services to finance, insure and move this cargo. Given that Western nations dominate these activities, it will be difficult for Russia to receive any price per barrel above the capped level. When this price cap comes into effect in December, it will most likely help push down the revenue that Russia earns per barrel.

But a short-term price cap from the Western allies will not sufficiently stanch the flow of oil revenue that's financing Russia's war machine. Some version of the price cap will need to stay in place for the foreseeable future.

As Russian revenue is reduced, OPEC will face a choice. Does it want to further restrict oil supply to drive up prices and help the Kremlin? Doing so would antagonize all members of the G-7, as well as the developing world. If Russia makes itself even more into a pariah state, for example by actively threatening to use nuclear weapons, the stigma of helping Russia will increase.

There is already a global movement away from fossil fuels, because of the climate change crisis. Another pressing reason to reduce our dependence on oil is to undermine producers, who still have power to destabilize the world economy and finance war crimes.

The U.S. and its allies should consider building a major program of global investments, helping all countries to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. In a world of reduced demand for oil, the balance of power would shift significantly.

CNN

From Page 8

as "fine people." His racist references include his recent labeling of Elaine Chao, his former Transportation secretary and wife of the Senate minority leader, as Mitch McConnell's "China-loving wife, Coco Chow."

To defend itself, CNN is certain to subpoena Trump's internal communications and records. A treasure trove of juicy information awaits disclosure. In this game of chicken, the question is which side least wants its most embarrassing information to be exposed publicly.

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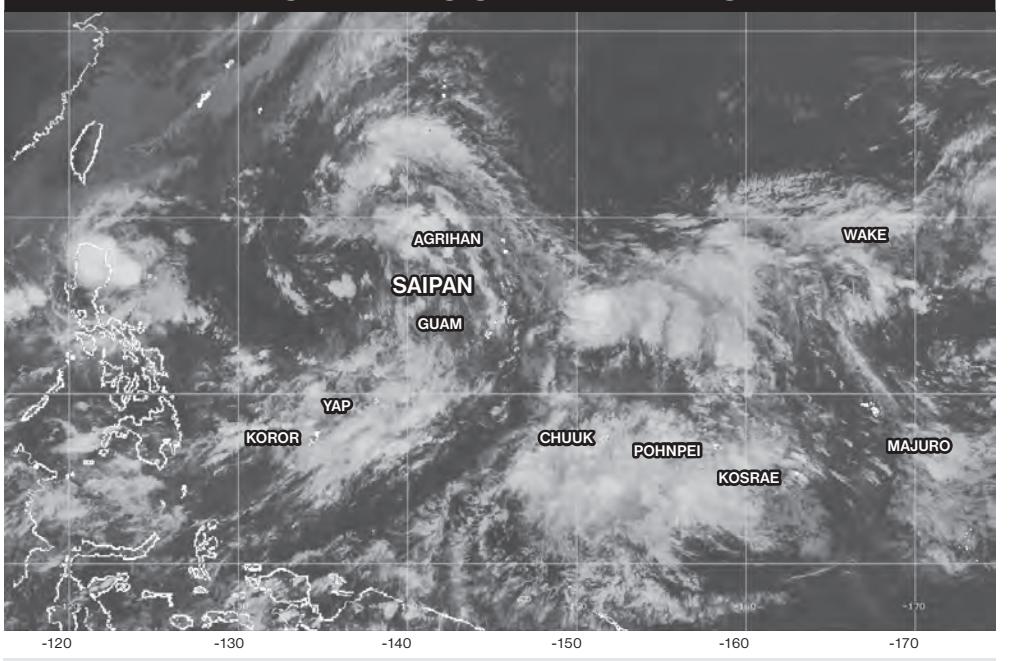
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Occasional showers and possibly a thunderstorm	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	Partly sunny
84° 78°	86° 76°	86° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:26 PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar trends indicate shower coverage should remain scattered through the rest of the afternoon. Updated the Marianas forecast to reduce the cloud cover and showers. The synoptic pattern appears to show a bit of low-level divergence with southwesterly flow splitting…curling into the tropical disturbance to our west and another to our east. Additional showers are still forecast to build back in tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	84° / 76°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:50 AM	8:25 PM
Friday	-	9:44 AM	9:11 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 AM	10:00 PM
Sunday	-	11:31 AM	10:51 PM
Monday	-	12:22 PM	11:43 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	65° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	84° / 74°
London	Light Rain	61° / 50°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	75° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Rain	63° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	69° / 61°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	78° / 61°
Paris	Showers	63° / 58°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Rome	Rain	67° / 56°
Salem	Thunderstorms	74° / 64°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	73° / 51°
Tokyo	Rain	63° / 60°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	72° / 62°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.06
10:22 AM	High Tide	1.76
4:04 PM	Low Tide	1.02
8:59 PM	High Tide	1.72

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	4:00PM	11:05AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA192/112	10:25PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
UA184/112	11:50PM	5:30pm+1	5 via Guam
OZ704/623	11:55PM	2:30PM+1	2,5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

How is your credit score calculated and why is it important?

By ADRIANA MORGA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

n this June 15, 2018, file photo, cash is fanned out from a wallet in North Andover, Mass. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—You know credit scores exist. You might even know what yours is. But do you know how it's calculated and why it's important?

Your credit score affects whether you can get a credit card, rent an apartment, buy a house, start a business, or even get a cell phone contract.

A low credit score can limit your choice of loans or determine if you can get one at all—and if you can, it might have a high interest rate.

"There's a huge cost to having a low credit score that happens to people, an actual true financial cost to them, and it's a shame that people don't learn about this or know about it or pay attention to it until usually it's too late," said Colleen McCreary, consumer financial advocate at Credit Karma.

Here's a look at how you can create healthy habits to avoid having a low credit score:

What is a credit score?

A credit score is a mathematical formula that helps lenders determine how likely you are to pay back a loan. Credit scores are based on your credit history and range from 300 to 850.

"It's a score that is going to determine how comfortable people are to lend you money," McCreary said.

If your credit score is high, you can borrow more money. But if it's low, you can borrow less or no money, or borrow money with a high interest rate, which can then create more debt.

Banks, landlords and insurance companies look at your credit score to determine the type of credit card that you can get approved for, whether you are the right fit for an apartment, and your insurance rate, among other things.

"Essentially, the bank will say 'Hey, you don't have a great credit score. Instead of a 2% interest rate, we're going to give you a 3% interest rate,'" said Kristin Myers, editor in chief of The Balance, a personal finance website. "It might mean that you're paying out more money over the lifetime of a loan every single month."

How is my credit score calculated?

While the idea of credit scores is simple, the way they're determined is more complicated.

Credit scores can come from several credit reporting agencies. The three most used are Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. Each has its own model to calculate credit scores.

While we know generally what factors into the credit scores, the agencies don't share their specific formulas with the public. But each produces a slightly different score.

"One is scoring like a basketball game, one is like a football game and one is scoring like a hockey game," said McCreary, who added that you shouldn't worry if one agency gives you a few points less than others.

Since you don't know which agency your lender is going to use to check your credit score, McCreary also recommends that you check all three of them before requesting a large amount of credit.

Here are the factors that are frequently used to calculate your credit score:

- Bill payment history
- Length of credit history
- Current unpaid debt
- How much of your available credit you're using
- New credit requests
- If you have had debt sent to collection, foreclosure, or a bankruptcy

One thing that doesn't affect your credit score is how much money you make, said McCreary. But you still need to take care to only borrow the amount you can afford to pay back.

Other aspects that don't affect your credit score include your age, where you live and your demographic information such as race, ethnicity, and gender, according to Experian.

How do i find out my credit score for free?

There are several ways that you can check your credit score for free. A great place to start is to check if your bank offers this service for its customers. Additionally, each of the three credit reporting agencies allows you to check your credit score for free.

Everyone is entitled to one free credit report a year from the three agencies at annualcreditreport.com, according to the federal government.

Other companies such as NerdWallet, Credit Karma and WalletHub also offer this service for free.

What is a good credit score?

You are considered to have a good credit score if it's 670 or higher. If your credit score is over 750, you're considered to have a great credit score, said McCreary.

"There is this sort of dream scenario of having an over 800 credit score, that is a very high credit score and very few people get there," said McCreary.

"Fair" credit scores are considered to be in the 580-669 range, a credit score below 580 is considered a poor credit score.

6 tips you can use to help improve your credit score

NEW YORK (AP)—Credit scores are complicated and because rating agencies consider many factors, the process of improving them can look different for everyone.

When Willard Carpenter, 68, wanted a loan to open a new business, he realized that his credit score was not high enough to get approved. After checking his credit history, he found several issues he needed to solve.

Carpenter's credit was heavily affected by credit card debt that his father left on their joint account after his death over a year and a half ago. He's also had no credit cards for at least 10 years—he stopped using them after he declared bankruptcy due to credit card debt.

Now, he is working with a financial advisor to erase his father's debt from his history and start building up his credit in a safe way.

Here are some tips for how you can do the same:

Know your starting point

The first step towards increasing your credit score is knowing your current score and what is showing in your credit report, said Kristin Myers, editor in chief of The Balance, a personal finance website.

"You can't fix what you don't know," she said. "See if there are any errors or if you've previously made a dispute and it keeps showing up."

Once you see what is in your report, you can start identifying where you might have weaknesses. For example, if you have a large amount of debt on one of your credit cards, start paying off that debt to reduce the credit utilization that is affecting your credit score.

Tackle your debt, as much as you can

Ideally, you pay off your credit card every month. But, if that is not possible for you, making small payments can help you maintain or increase your credit score.

If you can, pay just a bit more over the minimum monthly payment so you pay less interest over time.

A well-known payment method is the "debt snowball" where you pay down your debts from smallest to largest, to build momentum and good habits. Once the smaller debts are paid off and you have built a habit of paying off debt, the money you were used to putting aside every month can then go toward larger debts. NerdWallet offers a calculator to use this method.

Another small way to tackle debt is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's recommendation to "use cash when it's under $20" to avoid overspending on your credit card.

Avoid more debt, if you can

Not acquiring new debt is another way to increase your credit score, Myers said. If you have not paid off the debt that you currently have, it's best to not open more lines of credit. If you are in a position where you rely on credit due to economic circumstances, try to avoid unnecessary purchases that could significantly increase your debt.

Use credit cards, but in moderation

Many people's first instinct is to not use any credit cards to avoid getting into debt. However, this is not a good tactic if you want to have a good credit score. It's best to have at least one credit card but the key is to use it moderately, said Colleen McCreary, consumer financial advocate at Credit Karma.

"You don't want to use more than 30% of the credit that's available to you, but you want to be using those cards even just a little bit to prove that you can be trusted," she said.

When using your credit card, make sure to pay on time each month and try to use it only for purchases that you were already planning to make, and can afford.

Do not close you old accounts

After you have paid off your credit card, you might think it's best to close the account to avoid using it again.

This actually hurts your credit score. Since one of the factors in your credit score is the length of your credit history, if you close your oldest credit card account, you are also erasing this from your credit history.

"Keeping the length of that credit history open is incredibly important because the length of time you've had a loan or line of credit is going to boost your credit score," Myers said.

If uou don't have any credit history, start safe

If you are starting and want to build your credit, there are several ways to make this process safe for you to not get into debt. One of the most recommended ways is to open a "secured card," which are credit cards that require a deposit that usually amounts to the amount of credit that you are given.

The deposit is there in case you can't pay back the credit but it is given back to you after you upgrade to an "unsecured" card. Secured cards are reported to the credit bureaus, which means this line of credit shows in your credit report and it can help build or fix your credit score.

That's how Carpenter is planning to build up his credit score.

"This will allow me to start with a low limit and pay it off every month and then I can ask for a higher limit," said Carpenter, who lives in Bismark, Arkansas. Carpenter plans to open three credit cards and utilize a maximum of 25% of the allowed credit, he said.

Nation

Will to live, life jackets: Boaters survive 28 hours, sharks

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Two anglers whose boat sank over the weekend in the Gulf of Mexico clung to an improvised float and fought off sharks while the third swam what felt like miles to search for help.

The swimmer, Phong Le, managed to find a cellphone signal, and sent a Google map of his location just before his battery died, he told ABC News on Tuesday.

The three men had been in the water since about 10 a.m. Saturday—the sharks showed up Sunday morning, Luan Nguyen said. One bit the front of his life vest.

"And I think that's where I caught ... these injuries on my hand," he told the broadcaster, which identified the third boater as Son Nguyen.

In this screenshot from video, the U.S. Coast Guard rescues boaters off the coast of Empire, La., on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022. AP

"I took my two thumbs and jabbed him in the eyes, and he took off," Luan Nguyen said.

Even as the two men were pulled from the water, they were being circled and harassed by four blacktip sharks measuring about 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) long, said Andrew Stone, a seaman in the Coast Guard boat crew that rescued the exhausted pair.

"They were too tired to even be panicking," he told The Associated Press in an interview alongside other Coast Guard members and officials, none of whom referred to the boaters by name.

All three boaters were back home Tuesday, the Coast Guard said.

"These peoples' will to survive and their lifejackets is what saved their lives," said Lt. Katy Caraway, a helicopter copilot who rescued Le, who was suffering from hypothermia, and then flew all three to a New Orleans hospital.

She said that while her helicopter was pulling up Le, the man who swam for help, an airplane located the two who had to fight off sharks about a half-mile to a mile (0.8 to 1.6 kilometers) away. A Coast Guard boat based in Venice rushed to that spot.

Helicopter rescue swimmer Richard Hoefle said both boaters had deep cuts on their hands, and one was missing the tip of a middle finger.

In the hospital, he said, one man told him, "I was 100% certain my time was up" before he saw the aircraft that spotted them.

When the group's 24-foot (7.3-meter) boat sank, it left them with no radio in an area without cellphone service.

"We made a distress call on the VHF radio to the Coast Guard and let them know that we'd taken on water," Le told ABC. "And not even seconds after that, the boat was nearly halfway in the water."

They tied two ice chests together as a makeshift float. One happened to hold water and fruit, Luan Nguyen told the network.

One man's wife reported them missing about 10 p.m. Saturday, said Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Keefe, rescue coordinator for Sector New Orleans. The woman didn't know their launch point, he said, and it took about 3.5 hours to find their vehicle in Venice, near Louisiana's southeastern tip, so crews would know the best areas to search when dawn broke.

Le said that he swam off for help on Sunday. After swimming for what felt like miles, he got a signal on his cellphone and texted his Google map location to a friend.

"I see him trying to reply to me. And the phone cut off—I ran out of battery," Le told the network.

A boater's wife texted it to the Coast Guard, said Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Keefe, rescue coordinator for Sector New Orleans.

Coast Guard boats, planes and a helicopter had spent fruitless hours searching an area larger than Rhode Island.

Then the screenshot arrived.

Using coastal contours, the command center was able to figure out where it was, said Keefe.

The Coast Guard said the men were found about 25 miles off Empire, a small community located along the last narrow strip of the Mississippi Delta, southeast of New Orleans.

Le was rescued first. After the two shark-fighters were lifted into the helicopter, there was a lot of hugging, Hoefle said. Until then, he said, Le "had no idea if his friends were alive or dead."

Once everyone was on the helicopter, the three Coast Guard crewmembers on the boat below could express their joy. "We were celebrating—whooping and hollering," said Stone.

"I'd say this was a rescue for the books for all of us," Caraway said.

US mulls Ukrainian-type parole for Venezuelan migrants

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Biden administration is developing plans for Venezuelans with financial sponsors to be granted parole to enter the United States, similar to how Ukrainians have been admitted after Russia's invasion, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Four officials offered broad outlines of the plan to deal with a large increase in Venezuelans arriving at the U.S. border with Mexico. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Venezuelans who cross the border illegally on land would be immediately returned to Mexico, two officials said. Currently, Mexico only accepts migrants expelled under Title 42 authority—a pandemic-era rule that denies migrants rights to seek asylum and is designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19—if they are from Guatemala, El Salvador or Honduras, in addition to Mexico.

Venezuelans who qualify for parole would enter the U.S. at airports, two officials said, mirroring a program introduced in April that allows Ukrainians with financial sponsors to stay for up to two years.

The officials strongly emphasized that discussions were fluid and plans could change. The plans were reported earlier Tuesday by CNN and The New York Times.

While major questions remain—such as how many would be eligible for parole and where Venezuelans would board planes—the discussions demonstrate concern about what has emerged as a major challenge to authorities in the U.S., Mexico and Central America and a test of a hemispheric agreement reached in June in Los Angeles for countries that host migrants to confront issues together.

The Homeland Security Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Tuesday.

Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it would release details when talks are final.

"We are in discussions about a new approach that includes migration from Mexico and the northern Central American countries, as well as Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, in an orderly manner and with access to employment options," the ministry said in a statement.

Venezuelans recently surpassed Guatemalans and Hondurans to become the second-largest nationality stopped at the U.S. border after Mexicans. In August, Venezuelans were stopped 25,349 times, up 43% from 17,652 in July and four times the 6,301 encounters in August 2021, signaling a remarkably sudden demographic shift.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-eBay employee gets 1 year in prison for harassment scheme

BOSTON (AP)—A former eBay Inc. employee was sentenced Tuesday to one year behind bars for her role in a harassment scheme targeting creators of an online newsletter that included the delivery of live spiders, a bloody pig mask and other disturbing items to their home. Stephanie Popp, 34, of Louisville, Kentucky, who was eBay's senior manager of global intelligence, was sentenced to prison in Boston federal court after pleading guilty to cyberstalking conspiracy and witness tampering conspiracy charges. Stephanie Stockwell, 28, of Redwood City, California, former manager of eBay's Global Intelligence Center, was also sentenced on Tuesday for her role in the scheme, but avoided prison time. She was ordered to serve two years of probation, with the first year in home confinement.

Ex-NSA worker accused of selling secrets ordered detained

DENVER (AP)—A former National Security Agency employee from Colorado accused of trying to sell classified information to Russia will remain behind bars while he is prosecuted, a magistrate judge ruled Tuesday. Jareh Sebastian Dalke, 30, is facing a possible life sentence for allegedly giving the information to an undercover FBI agent whom prosecutors say he believed was a person working for the Russian Federation. He pleaded not guilty through his lawyer during a hearing in Denver federal court before a hearing to determine if he should be released from jail. Dalke was arrested Sept. 28 after authorities say he arrived at Denver's downtown train station with a laptop and used a secure connection set up by investigators to transfer some classified documents.

Ex-Texas cop charged for shooting teen eating hamburger

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A now-former San Antonio police officer was charged Tuesday with two counts of aggravated assault by a peace officer for shooting and gravely wounding a teen eating a hamburger in his car in a McDonald's parking lot. The teen had begun driving away when the officer opened fire. James Brennand, 25, was charged in the Oct. 2 shooting of Erik Cantu, 17, according to a police statement. He turned himself in to police Tuesday night and remained in custody, said Police Chief William McManus. Cantu is still unconscious and on life support, his family said Tuesday.

California tree trimmer killed after fall into wood chipper

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)—A tree trimmer was killed Tuesday in the San Francisco Bay Area after he fell into a wood chipper, authorities said. The man, whose name has not been released, was working in the city of Menlo Park shortly before 1 p.m. when he fell, police said.

Officers arrived to find the man dead from injuries sustained after his fall. The state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health is investigating the man's death. Menlo Park is about 25 miles (40.23 kilometers) south of San Francisco.

Police: Woman held captive for a month and repeatedly raped

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, Mo. (AP)—A Missouri woman was held captive in a basement room for about a month and was raped repeatedly before she was able to escape, according to charging documents filed Tuesday.

The suspect, 39-year-old Timothy M. Haslett of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, was arrested Friday and appeared in court by video Tuesday from the Clay County jail.

Judge Louis Angles entered a not guilty plea on Haslett's behalf on charges of first-degree rape or attempted rape, first-degree kidnapping and second-degree assault. He is jailed on $500,000 bond and told the court on Tuesday that he needs a public defender to represent him.

The victim was found early Friday, wearing latex lingerie and a metal collar with what appeared to be a padlock on the front, the Kansas City Star reported. The woman told police she had been picked up in early September, then taken to a home and kept in a small room in the suspect's basement.

Police removed the lock which they said was restricting the woman's breathing. She pointed out the home where she was held as she was being driven to the hospital, according to a probable cause statement from a detective.

"He kept her restrained in handcuffs on her wrists and ankles. She was able to get free when he took his child to school," the probable cause statement said. The woman told police that Haslett whipped and raped her frequently.

The Star reported that since Haslett's arrest, police have carried large bags of evidence from the ranch-style home. They've used a cadaver dog—which can track the missing or dead—to examine the yard and Haslett's truck.

Excelsior Springs, a town of 11,600 residents, is 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Kansas City.

Asia

Graft convictions extend Suu Kyi's prison term to 26 years

BANGKOK (AP)—A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges Wednesday, with two three-year sentences to be served concurrently, adding to previous convictions that now leave her with a 26-year total prison term, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi

Suu Kyi, 77, was detained on Feb. 1, 2021, when the military seized power from her elected government. She has denied the allegations against her in this case, in which she was accused of receiving $550,000 as a bribe from Maung Weik, a tycoon convicted of drug trafficking.

Corruption cases comprise the biggest share of the many charges the military has brought against the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate. Suu Kyi has been charged with 12 counts in total under the Anti-Corruption Act, with each count punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

Suu Kyi had already been sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition, election fraud and five corruption charges.

Her supporters and independent analysts say the charges are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from taking part in the next election, which the military has promised in 2023.

In recent months, her trials have been held in a purpose-built courtroom in the main prison on the outskirts of the capital, Naypyitaw. She has not been seen or allowed to speak in public since she was arrested and her lawyers, who had been a source of information on the proceedings, have not been allowed to speak publicly on her behalf or about her trial since a gag order was placed on them last year.

Thai massacre victims are cremated

UTHAI SAWAN, Thailand (AP)—Hundreds of mourners and victims' families gathered Tuesday evening to watch flames burn from rows of makeshift pyres at cremation ceremonies for the young children and others who died in last week's mass killings at a day care center in Thailand's rural northeast.

Families bid their final goodbyes at a Buddhist temple a short distance from the Young Children's Development Center in the town of Uthai Sawan, where a former policeman, who was fired from his job earlier this year for using drugs, barged in last Thursday and shot and stabbed children and their caregivers.

The police sergeant, Panya Kamrap, ended up killing 36 people, 24 of them children, in the small farming community before taking his own life. It was the biggest mass killing by an individual in Thailand's history.

Joint ceremonies for most of the victims were held at three temples to spare families from having to wait long hours for successive cremations to be completed, said Phra Kru Adisal Kijjanuwat, the abbot of the Rat Samakee temple.

A ceremony for 19 of the dead, 18 of them children, was held at his temple. With a large crowd watching, monks slowly walked out of the temple hall, followed by grieving relatives. Each family was led by one monk, with police bearing the coffin behind them.

After the coffins were placed in each of the small, brick-enclosed funeral pyres, the victims' relatives came forward in the darkening skies to put portraits of their loved ones on top. Some family members also placed children's toys alongside.

Japan space agency rocket carrying 8 satellites fails

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese space agency said a rocket carrying eight satellites failed just after liftoff Wednesday and had to be aborted by a self-destruction command, in the country's first failed rocket launch in nearly 20 years.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said its Epsilon-6 rocket experienced an unidentified "abnormality" and its flight had to be aborted less than seven minutes after takeoff from the Uchinoura Space Center in the southern Japanese prefecture of Kagoshima.

JAXA officials said the agency sent a self-destruction signal after deciding that the rocket was not able to fly safely and enter a planned orbit. They said the rocket was believed to have fallen into the sea with the payloads.

The cause of the failure was still being investigated, the agency said.

The Epsilon rocket was carrying eight payloads, including two developed by a private company based in Fukuoka, another southern prefecture. It was the first time an Epsilon rocket carried commercially developed payloads.

The 26-meter (85-foot) -long, 95.6-ton and solid-fuel Epsilon-6 rocket is the final version before JAXA plans to develop another variation, Epsilon-S. After five upgrades since the early 2010s, the Epsilon-6 is designed for a compact launch as JAXA aims to develop a commercial satellite launch business.

TAMZIN HENDERSON VIA AP

477 WHALES DEAD IN STRANDING

A string of dead pilot whales line the beach at Tupuangi Beach, Chatham Islands, in New Zealand's Chatham Archipelago, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. Some 477 pilot whales have died after stranding themselves on two remote New Zealand beaches over recent days, officials say.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Concerns grow as cholera spreads through Haiti's prisons

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A nonprofit organization on Tuesday called on Haiti's government to release certain inmates amid a swift rise in cholera cases throughout the country's severely crowded prison system and dwindling supplies of clean water. Health through Walls, which provides medical care to prisoners in Haiti, noted that not only inmates are at risk, but also security guards, kitchen workers and health staff. "Immediate action is necessary to avert more preventable deaths within the prisons," the organization said. "The situation has not been more dire."

Venezuela searches for missing after landslide; 43 dead

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Rescuers worked to clear rocks and mud from the streets of a north-central city in Venezuela on Tuesday, three days after it was hit by a massive and deadly landslide, and expanded their search for any bodies buried under the sludge. Officials raised the death toll from the slide in Las Tejerias to at least 43 and warned that it could go up further as bodies are found downstream from the hardest-hit neighborhoods. Crews extended their search perimeter to include that area, along a river located about a mile (2 kilometers) outside the city. At least 56 people were said to be missing, and some local residents have joined in the hunt for them.

UN, G7 decry Russian attack on Ukraine as possible war crime

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces showered Ukraine with more missiles and munition-carrying drones Tuesday after widespread strikes killed at least 19 people in an attack the U.N. human rights office described as "particularly shocking" and amounting to potential war crimes. Air raid warnings sounded throughout Ukraine for a second straight morning as officials advised residents to conserve energy and stock up on water. The strikes have knocked out power across the country and pierced the relative calm that had returned to Kyiv and many other cities far from the war's front lines. "It brings anger, not fear," Kyiv resident Volodymyr Vasylenko, 67, said as crews worked to restore traffic lights and clear debris from the capital's streets. "We already got used to this. And we will keep fighting."

9th body found off Greek isle days after migrant shipwreck

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A ninth body has been recovered off a southern Greek island where a yacht carrying nearly 100 migrants sank in a gale last week, the coast guard said Tuesday. Another six people are still believed missing. A coast guard statement said the body of a woman was located Tuesday near the wreck site on Kythira. Another two women and six men have been found dead since the Oct. 5 sinking. The overcrowded yacht had left Turkey on Oct. 3, and was headed through Greek waters for Italy when it veered off course, hit rocks just offshore in the dark and sank. Rescuers and residents saved 80 people, who were dragged up a cliff on ropes or in improvised slings, but survivors reported that about 15 were missing. Days of strong winds hampered the search for them.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Caridad Satur Igisomar Fitial

Lovingly known as "DA"
Born to life on October 5, 1952
Call to eternal life on October 6, 2022

In her new life, DA will be met at the gates of heaven by her:

Son: †Ralph Stanley Igisomar
Parents: †Zacarias Olorit Igisomar
†Vicenta Veronica Satur Igisomar
Parents-in-law: †Angelina Taitano
†Francisco Fitial (Taghuuf)

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Raphael T. Fitial
Children: Eugene I. Fitial and Masayo Ogata Fitial (Daisuke, Yuma)
Zacarias Igisomar (Kaimipono, Sikona)
Lona Igisomar and Edwin Kaipat (Cassandra, Noah)
Charene Igisomar (Polo, Jasmine)
Clarissa Igisomar and Benjamin Kosam (Jurissa, Frank, Ralph)
Roland Igisomar and Jessica W. Igisomar (Evalani, Laila, Jaelene)

Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered at 6 p.m. at the San Jose Parish, Oleai and the Santa Soledad Parish Kagman; and at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6 a.m.
Funeral service will be held on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Our beloved +Caridad will be escorted from the CHCC morgue to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m., followed by Responso, Holy Rosary and viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will commence at 10 a.m., followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, where she will be laid to rest.

Ghilisow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers
From all the Family

Environment

US: Gopher tortoise not threatened over most of its range

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Gopher tortoises—burrowers whose extensive homes shelter many other animals—are generally doing well and need federal protection only in the small area where they were declared threatened 35 years ago, the government said Tuesday.

Thanks to extensive conservation work and recently discovered populations, Georgia's state reptile is no longer a candidate for protection in the bulk of its range: Florida, south Georgia, most of coastal Alabama and a sliver of South Carolina, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said.

An environmental group which sued for protection across the entire range called the decision indefensible.

"It ignores devastating urban sprawl that's decimated the tortoise's habitat and will continue to drive the species ever closer to extinction," said Elise Bennett, Florida director and an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

A gopher tortoise ambles along a tee box on Sept. 21, 2014 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. AP

The National Alliance of Forest Owners, on the other hand, called the agency's action a great decision that recognizes the success of voluntary conservation programs.

"More than just this single listing, this story is also about the success of a new approach to conservation," spokesman Ethan Breitling said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said small, disconnected populations remain threatened in southeastern Mississippi and bits of Louisiana and Alabama, which together make up about 12% of the tortoise's range.

"Efforts to improve conditions for the gopher tortoise have been effective, and it is important that scientists, experts and wildlife professionals continue to strategically use our best resources to help recover the gopher tortoise where it's most vulnerable," Leopoldo Miranda-Castro, the service's southeastern regional director, said in a news release.

Although gopher tortoises average 9 to 11 inches (23 to 28 centimeters) long, researchers have found burrows up to 40 feet (12 meters) long. More than 360 kinds of animals have been found in occupied or abandoned burrows; the 60 vertebrate species include dusky gopher frogs,eastern indigo snakes and burrowing owls.

Logging and development are two of the gopher tortoise's biggest threats. It lives in sandy upland forests with widely spaced trees, including longleaf pine savannas that once covered an area larger than Germany. Those once-extensive forests are now down to about 5% of that area.

Longleaf pine restoration, however, is among many programs that have helped gopher tortoises, the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

Gopher tortoises were among more than 500 species listed in 2011 as possibly needing protection to settle lawsuits brought by two environmental nonprofits, Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity and New Mexico-based WildEarth Guardians.

Bennett said Tuesday that the decision was made even though the federal agency expects populations to decline range-wide over the next 80 years—with the largest drops in Florida and the western part of its range.

She said the group is studying the decision and considering all options including another lawsuit.

Thunberg: Coal worse than keeping German nuclear plants on

BERLIN (AP)—Climate activist Greta Thunberg says it would be "a mistake" for Germany to switch off its nuclear power plants if that means the country must burn more planet-heating coal.

The German government is still debating the future of its nuclear plants, long set to be shut down this year, given the specter of a looming energy crisis due to the war in Ukraine.

Thunberg, who inspired a youth climate movement with her solo protests outside the Swedish parliament in 2018, told German public broadcaster ARD that it was "a very bad idea to focus on coal when this (nuclear power) is already in place."

But she acknowledged in the interview, which will be aired Wednesday, that there was a strong debate over the issue in Germany.

Asked whether it would be better for the planet if Germany keeps its three remaining nuclear plants going, Thunberg responded: "If we have them already running, I feel that it's a mistake to close them down in order to focus on coal."

Pressed by program host Sandra Maischberger on whether she thought the nuclear plants should be closed down as soon as possible after the current energy crunch passes, Thunberg said "it depends. We don't know what will happen after this."

The 19-year-old's comments come as Germany's three-party governing coalition argues over the possibility of suspending the country's nuclear phaseout.

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg stands onstage during a Fridays for Future global climate strike in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. AP

Economy Minister Robert Habeck, a member of the anti-nuclear Green party, has said keeping the reactors running would do little to tackle a gas shortage.

He recently suggested that two of the plants could exceptionally operate until April but opposes running them longer for safety reasons. Habeck has separately approved reactivating several coal and oil-fired power plants to ensure energy supplies following Russia's decision to cut natural gas deliveries to Europe.

Environmental activists warn that Germany risks defaulting on its climate goals by burning more fossil fuels, while conservative lawmakers say the government should use all available means to generate energy given the tense supply situation and high prices.

Thunberg's nuclear comments were welcomed by libertarians and right-wing German politicians who have previously been dismissive or sharply critical of her activism.

The teenager, who is currently finishing high school, said Germany's decision to rely on coal plants showed "what happens when you are too addicted to these kinds of fossil fuels."

She slammed plans to invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure and said the focus should instead be on expanding renewable energy. The German government insists that new gas plants must be capable of using clean hydrogen and that it's boosting wind and solar power production.

Thunberg noted that politicians in some countries, such as Sweden, are averse to suggesting that people should save energy, even though this could lower prices.

"I know that in Germany people are talking about saving energy," she said. "But in Sweden it's completely prohibited to talk about using less energy really, because then people say, 'Oh no, this is communism and so on.' So it's completely insane."

Interior Department moves forward with oil and gas drill site leasing

The seal of U.S. Interior Department is seen during a May 2010 news conference in Washington, D.C. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

By David Jordan
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON—In order to comply with a provision of the climate, tax and health care law signed in August the Interior Department announced Thursday it would move forward with onshore and offshore oil and gas lease sales on federal lands and waters.

At the behest of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., the law included provisions that required the Interior Department to conduct offshore leases it had previously canceled and specified that land could only be leased for renewable energy development if a certain acreage was offered for oil and natural gas leasing.

For onshore leasing, the Bureau of Land Management will begin scoping for its next sales in New Mexico and Wyoming "under a strategy that includes onshore lease sales consistent with the terms of the law," which include changes such as increasing the minimum royalty rate, assessing a fee for filings of expressions of interest and eliminating non-competitive leasing.

For offshore leasing, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released a draft environmental impact statement for two Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease sales which the law directed the department to conduct by March and September of next year respectively.

Both lease sales, along with a third in Alaska's Cook Inlet, were originally included in the department's 2017-22 offshore oil and gas leasing program. The Interior Department announced in May that it would not move forward with the sales, citing a lack of industry interest and delays, in part due to conflicting court rulings.

The Biden administration did not finalize a new offshore oil and gas leasing program prior to the previous program's expiration at the end of June. The American Petroleum Institute and other industry groups criticized the administration over this, arguing that it created uncertainty for oil and natural gas producers.

Cole Ramsey, API's vice president for exploration and production policy, said on a call with reporters that the move was a welcomed announcement "but it still does not replace a finalized five-year program."

Life & Style

Angela Lansbury, 'Murder She Wrote' star, dies at 96

NEW YORK (AP)—Angela Lansbury, the scene-stealing British actor who kicked up her heels in the Broadway musicals "Mame" and "Gypsy" and solved endless murders as crime novelist Jessica Fletcher in the long-running TV series "Murder, She Wrote," has died. She was 96.

Lansbury died Tuesday at her home in Los Angeles, according to a statement from her three children. She died five days shy of her 97th birthday.

Hers was a 75-year career that included beloved musicals on stage, iron-fisted matriarchs on film, singing the theme song for the animated movie "Beauty and the Beast," being made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth II and the creation of one of television's best loved characters.

Lansbury won five Tony Awards for her Broadway performances and a lifetime achievement award. She earned Academy Award nominations as supporting actress for two of her first three films, "Gaslight" (1945) and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1946), and was nominated again in 1962 for "The Manchurian Candidate" and her deadly portrayal of a Communist agent and the title character's mother.

Her mature demeanor prompted producers to cast her much older than her actual age. In 1948, when she was 23, her hair was streaked with gray so she could play a fortyish newspaper publisher with a yen for Spencer Tracy in "State of the Union."

Her stardom came in middle age when she became the hit of the New York theater, winning Tony Awards for "Mame" (1966), "Dear World" (1969), "Gypsy" (1975) and "Sweeney Todd" (1979).

Lansbury

She was back on Broadway and got another Tony nomination in 2007 in Terrence McNally's "Deuce," playing a scrappy, brash former tennis star, reflecting with another ex-star as she watches a modern-day match from the stands. In 2009 she collected her fifth Tony, for best featured actress in a revival of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" and in 2015 won an Olivier Award in the role.

Broadway royalty paid their respects. Audra McDonald tweeted: "She was an icon, a legend, a gem, and about the nicest lady you'd ever want to meet." Leslie Uggams on Twitter wrote: "Dame Angela was so sweet to me when I made my Broadway debut. She was a key person in welcoming me to the community. She truly lived, lived, lived!"

Playwright Paul Rudnick added: "she provided the most fabulous, irreplaceable joy. She was beloved as a person and an actress, and managed to be approachable, glamorous and heartbreaking. She'll be missed, celebrated and adored."

But Lansbury's widest fame began in 1984 when she launched "Murder, She Wrote" on CBS. Based loosely on Agatha Christie's Miss Marple stories, the series centered on Jessica Fletcher, a middle-aged widow and former substitute school teacher living in the seaside village of Cabot Cove, Maine. She had achieved notice as a mystery novelist and amateur sleuth.

The actor found the first series season exhausting.

"I was shocked when I learned that I had to work 12-15 hours a day, relentlessly, day in, day out," she recalled. "I had to lay down the law at one point and say 'Look, I can't do these shows in seven days; it will have to be eight days.'"

CBS and the production company, Universal Studio, agreed, especially since "Murder, She Wrote" had become a Sunday night hit. Despite the long days—she left her home at Brentwood in West Los Angeles at 6 a.m. and returned after dark—and reams of dialogue to memorize, Lansbury maintained a steady pace. She was pleased that Jessica Fletcher served as an inspiration for older women.

US museums return African bronzes stolen in 19th century

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A bronze sculpture of a West African king that had been in the collection of a Rhode Island museum for more than 70 years was among 31 culturally precious objects that were returned to the Nigerian government on Tuesday.

The Benin Bronzes including a piece called the "Head of a King" or "Oba" from the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, were transferred to the Nigerian National Collections during a ceremony at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The pieces that were stolen by the British in the late 19th century included 29 that the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents voted in June to return, and one object from the National Gallery of Art, officials said.

The repatriation is part of a worldwide movement by cultural institutions to return artifacts that were often stolen during colonial wars. In August, the Horniman Museum and Gardens in London announced that it would transfer a collection of 72 Benin Bronzes to the Nigerian government.

AP

A bronze sculpture called the "Head of a King" or "Oba," probably from the 1700s, rests in front of a white background, Dec. 13, 2004, in Providence, R.I.

"In 1897 the 'Head of an Oba' was stolen from the Royal Palace of Oba Ovonranwmen," RISD Museum Interim Director Sarah Ganz Blythe said in a statement. "The RISD Museum has worked with the Nigerian National Commission for Museums and Monuments to repatriate this sculpture to the people of Nigeria where it belongs."

King Charles III to be crowned May 6 next year, palace says

LONDON (AP)—King Charles III will be crowned at Westminster Abbey on May 6 in a ceremony that will embrace the past but look to the modern world after the 70-year reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Tuesday's announcement from Buckingham Palace comes amid speculation that the coronation will be shorter and less extravagant than the three-hour ceremony that installed Elizabeth in 1953, in keeping with Charles' plans for a slimmed down monarchy. While the palace provided few details, British media reported that the guest list would be pared to 2,000 from 8,000.

Charles will be crowned in a solemn religious ceremony conducted by Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, the palace said in a statement. Camilla, the queen consort, will be crowned alongside her husband.

"The coronation will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry," the palace said.

Charles will be anointed with holy oil before receiving the orb, scepter and coronation ring. Camilla will also be anointed with holy oil and crowned, as was Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The palace is planning the coronation, known as Operation Golden Orb, as Charles and his heir, Prince William, seek to demonstrate that the monarchy is still relevant in modern, multi-cultural Britain. While there was widespread respect for Elizabeth, as demonstrated by the tens of thousands of people who waited hours to file past her coffin, there is no guarantee that reverence will transfer to Charles.

Organizers should be shooting for a ceremony that's about an hour long, in line with last month's "immensely moving" funeral for the queen, said royal historian Robert Lacey, author of "Majesty: Elizabeth II and the House of Windsor."

Mom suspects daughter's boyfriend of cheating

DEAR ABBY: We recently found out my 19-year-old daughter is pregnant. This is her first boyfriend, and she is absolutely smitten with him. He has asked her to marry him, and we are excited and happy for her, but there is one thing we are having a hard time with: I am almost certain he is cheating on her.

They live with us, so I can see the signs—he says he's working late, and several times even told her he had to work all night. He's always on his phone, and he never allows her to see it. He keeps it on silent and face down. When he gets a text message (which is often), he immediately says he has to go to the bathroom. Then he stays in there for about a half-hour.

I've tried talking to her about what I'm seeing, but she gets mad at me. She says she trusts him and insists he would never cheat on her. It's painful to watch this happening to her, and I don't know how to handle it. Should I continue bringing it up or let her find out on her own?

KNOWS ALL TOO WELL

DEAR KNOWS: You have already brought it up. Your daughter should not rush into marriage just because she is pregnant, if that's her intention. Because her boyfriend is living with you, he's likely not mature or financially stable enough to be married to anyone. (What do his parents think about this?)

I was tempted to advise you to hire a private investigator to find out if the young man is really working late or all night, but I'm not sure you need to go to that expense. The truth will eventually reveal itself. In the meantime, give your daughter plenty of emotional support because she is going to need it, and probably more.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I married my high school sweetheart in 1967. In 1979, after 12 years of marriage, we refinanced our mortgage so we could add a room. During the credit check, it was brought to my attention that my wife had borrowed $14,000 and opened a secret mailbox in a different town to hide it from me.

The problem was, and still is, that she has refused for 52 years to tell me what it was for. Needless to say, my trust in her was shaken. She had no drinking, gambling or drug problems. I must have asked her a thousand times what she needed the money for, and still no answer. Our marriage went downhill, I had an affair, and we separated.

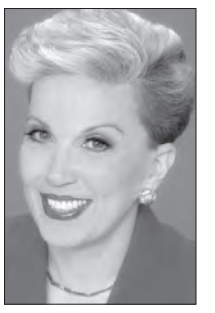
In 1990, we got back together, but it wasn't the same. The kids were grown, so four years later we divorced. I'm 75 now, remarried 20 years ago, and I still can't figure out why she couldn't tell me the truth to save our marriage. (Abortion keeps popping into my mind.) A day does not go by that it doesn't enter my mind even all these years later. My kids are estranged because all they know is that I had an affair. I suppose I will be wondering until my dying day. Advice?

STILL IN THE DARK

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR STILL: What your ex-wife needed that money for is anybody's guess. She may have used it to bail out a friend who was in trouble. She also could have been paying off a blackmailer. The possibilities are so varied that guessing her motive could be a parlor game.

Since you asked, my advice to you is to finally let the past stay in the past and quit upsetting yourself over something you will never get a straight answer about. There are few more effective ways to diminish the joys of the present than to do what you are doing.

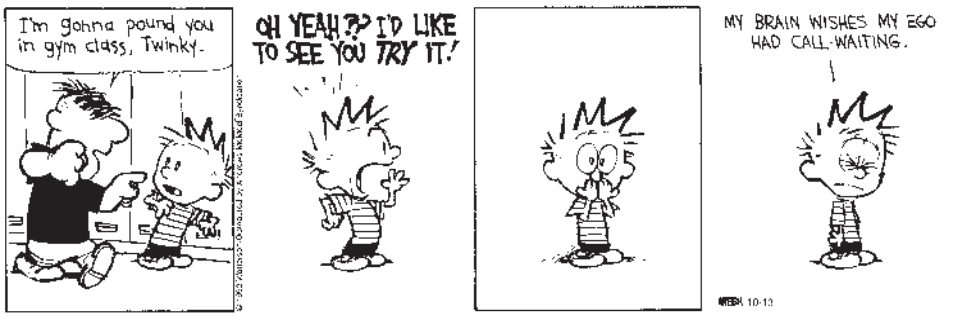
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

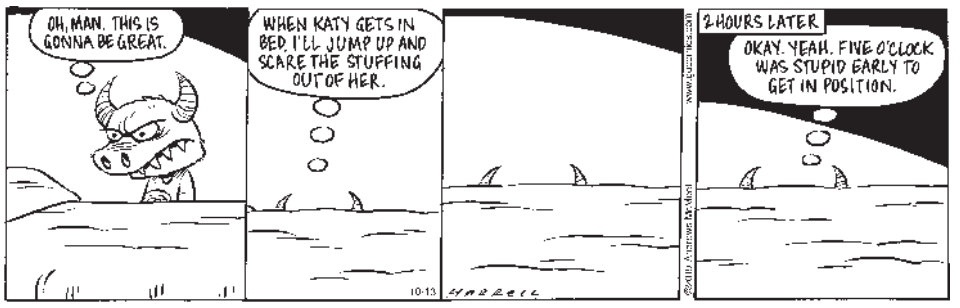


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

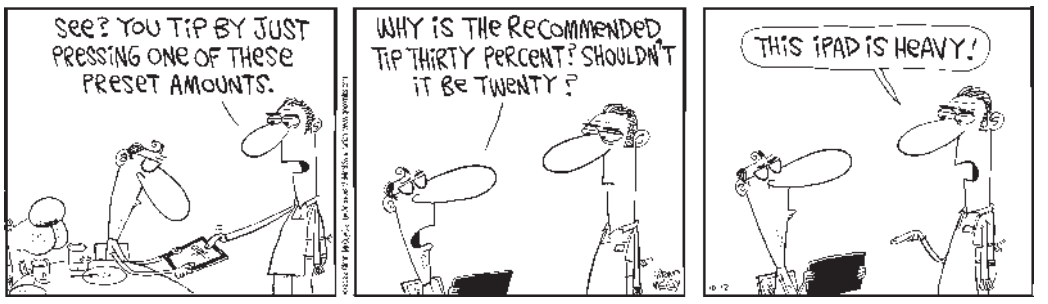
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH, MAN. THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT.
WHEN KATY GETS IN BED, I'LL JUMP UP AND SCARE THE STUFFING OUT OF HER.
2 HOURS LATER
OKAY. YEAH. FIVE O'CLOCK WAS STUPID EARLY TO GET IN POSITION.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SEE? YOU TIP BY JUST PRESSING ONE OF THESE PRESET AMOUNTS.
WHY IS THE RECOMMENDED TIP THIRTY PERCENT? SHOULDN'T IT BE TWENTY?
THIS IPAD IS HEAVY!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Canine cry
4 "Alfred" composer
8 Conked out
12 Brock of baseball
13 Actor Schreiber
14 "— pinch of salt ..."
15 13th president
17 Oft-quoted Berra
18 Zodiac feline
19 Prophets
21 Picasso, for one
24 — -la-la
25 "Veep" airer
26 Twitch
28 Public persona
32 Prefix with dynamic
34 "Platoon" locale
36 Trudge
37 Ambition
39 CSA soldier
41 "— voyage!"
42 Highland hat
44 Cuba's capital
46 Semitic language
50 Pouch
51 Island near Java
52 No. 1 Taylor Swift album of 2020
56 Earth sci.
57 Run off
58 Gym unit
59 Onion's kin
60 Undo a dele
61 TV's Longoria

DOWN
1 Sitcom alien
2 King, in Cannes
3 At maximum speed
4 Nearly
5 Carnival city
6 Pianist Peter
7 Tennis great Chris
8 Summer activity for kids
9 "American —"
10 Perimeter
11 Lectern locale
16 Floral ring
20 MSNBC's Melber
21 Sudan neighbor
22 Taxi alternative
23 Can metal
27 Lot vehicle
29 Tuna type
30 Hoodlum
31 Poet — St. Vincent Millay
33 Non-dairy latte ingredient
35 "Whatevs"
38 Goat's cry
40 Laundry holder
43 Offends
45 Batman portrayer Kilmer
46 Genesis shepherd
47 Indy event
48 Soap additive
49 Stallion-to-be
53 Author Harper
54 Gun the engine
55 Clean air org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	P		T	A	L	K		C	A	S	E
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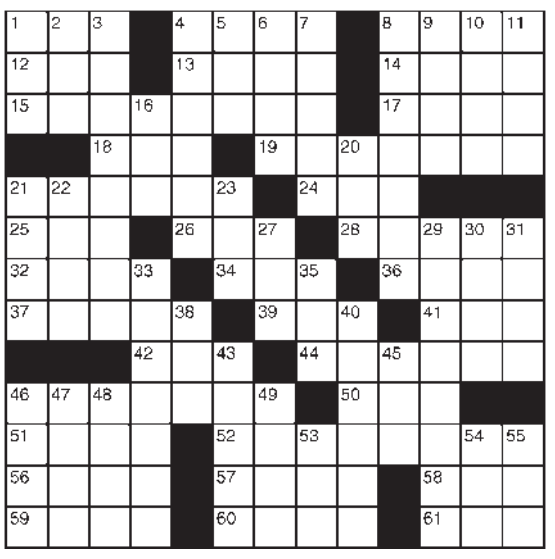
			G	O	O			I	T	A	L	Y
P	I	N	E	G	R	E	E	N		T	I	O
T	S	A	R		B	A	L	D		A	I	D
A	P	E	S		S	L	M	S		D	I	A

Yesterday's answer 10-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Caleb McLaughlin, 21; Sacha Baron Cohen, 51; Kate Walsh, 55; Marie Osmond, 63.

Happy Birthday: Buckle up and get ready to move into high gear. Put your energy where it will bring the highest return, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. Mark your territory and move forward with discipline and determination. Set high goals, and you won't be disappointed. Live, learn and prosper using your intelligence, connections and physical attributes. Your numbers are 7, 11, 18, 23, 29, 33, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll have some good ideas, but before implementing change, go over every detail to ensure your plan is solid. Share factual information to avoid being misrepresented by your words. A romantic gesture is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Pay attention to detail when it comes to how you handle your money and your living arrangements. Share your concerns, and the input you receive will help clear up a misunderstanding. You can help, but not at your expense. Offer suggestions, not cash. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Cut loose and have fun. Plan social activities that put a smile on your face, and spend time with people who offer encouragement. Personal improvements will result in gains that will put your mind at ease and your sights on something exciting. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make a pit stop to ensure everything is in order before you proceed. You may have plans, but unless there is a clear passage to your destination, you must do your due diligence first. Taking a different path will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Plant the seed, share your concerns and prepare to act. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands. Take control, make your mark and reap the rewards. Make honesty a priority, and refuse to let anyone lead you astray. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't share information. Keep your emotions in check and your eye on what's happening around you. Consider what benefits you most, and make a move to protect what you've accomplished. Don't expect everyone to agree or back you. Be prepared to proceed alone. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Believe in yourself and make a move. You'll prosper if you don't waffle or give someone the upper hand. Keep your plans a secret until you have the time to put everything in place. Update your image and compliments will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Proceed with caution. When in doubt, sit tight. Go over your assets and liabilities and find a way to cut corners and ease stress. Be innovative and find cheaper ways to entertain, enjoy life and please the ones you love. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Share information, discuss your intentions and be firm about your plans. Put your best foot forward and offer a positive attitude and solutions to all those you encounter. Refuse to let someone's uncertainty confuse you. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9			4		6			5
	5				2			7
				8				
	4		1					
3	7					5		6
					4		8	
				2				
8			9			2		
4			8		7			3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

6	3	4	7	8	9	5	1	2
1	2	7	5	6	4	3	8	9
5	8	9	3	1	2	7	4	6
7	1	2	4	9	8	6	3	5
3	9	8	6	5	1	4	2	7
4	6	5	2	3	7	8	9	1
2	4	3	9	7	5	1	6	8
9	5	1	8	4	6	2	7	3
8	7	6	1	2	3	9	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/12

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Channel your energy into personal changes that put a smile on your face, a skip in your step and add excitement to your life. Say no to anyone suggesting you try something that can cause physical, legal or financial setbacks. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Not everyone will be happy with your decisions, but you must follow your heart and do what's best for you. Set your sights on keeping everything updated and in tiptop shape. Make your intentions known and your plans approved. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Consider friends and family before deciding to change how you live or do things. A partnership will require your attention if you want to avoid disappointment. Be specific and find out where you stand. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, proactive and communicative. You are demonstrative and efficient.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINKING ABOUT THE MINOANS Solution: 7 letters

L	I	T	P	Y	G	E	Z	A	K	R	O	S	L	C
A	A	N	L	I	N	E	A	R	B	A	R	L	E	Y
L	R	T	I	A	I	G	A	S	R	I	N	G	V	P
O	A	T	A	R	K	D	D	E	O	S	T	R	A	R
I	N	N	H	L	O	N	H	D	W	O	O	L	N	E
N	A	A	R	U	A	T	O	N	I	M	D	N	T	S
C	T	S	C	L	R	P	N	T	O	M	B	S	I	S
L	O	E	S	L	C	S	N	A	V	E	Y	E	N	M
O	L	I	M	P	O	R	T	O	S	L	L	I	E	E
T	I	N	G	S	P	V	O	E	N	I	R	P	C	A
H	A	O	T	S	P	S	E	C	A	L	A	P	R	N
S	L	L	Y	T	E	I	C	O	Ⓢ	I	E	O	E	E
D	I	O	E	U	R	O	P	E	Ⓔ	E	L	P	T	C
K	S	C	I	M	A	R	E	C	Ⓖ	S	R	A	E	Y
Y	G	O	L	O	E	H	C	R	Ⓐ	S	L	F	M	M

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Ages, Anatolia, Archeology, Arthur, Arts, Barley, Canaan, Ceramics, Colonies, Copper, Crete, Cypress, Dark, Early, Egypt, Europe, Evans, Fresco, Gold, Import, Islands, Kilts, King, Late, Levantine, Lilies, Linear, Loincloths, Malia, Minos, Minotaur, Mycenae, Nonpalatal, Palaces, Poppies, Ring, Santorini, Society, Thera, Tombs, Volcano, Wool, Zakros

Yesterday's Answer: The Bar

The NEW **Treasury 50** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Banchero scores 16 in home debut, Magic hold off Grizzlies

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero scored 17 points in the No. 1 pick's first home appearance, and the Orlando Magic beat the Memphis Grizzlies 109-105 on Tuesday night.

Wendell Carter Jr. led the Magic with 18 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, Terrence Ross scored 17 points and Franz Wagner finished with 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Wagner also had two steals, including a key one with 30 seconds left as the Grizzlies made a final run.

Desmond Bane, who struggled shooting early in the preseason, scored 33 points, converting 11 of 18 shots, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range. Ja Morant scored 23, but had a rough night from the field, shooting 8 for 24 and missing all six from behind the arc.

Banchero helped the Magic to a quick lead with 13 points in the first half. Orlando led by as much as 18, but Memphis got within single digits in the fourth quarter. Unlike other preseason games, both teams came back with the bulk of their starters for the final six minutes. That made for an entertaining close to the game as the teams traded baskets until the Magic pulled away at the end.

Caleb Houston, a second-round pick out of Michigan, had 13 points for the Magic. Bol Bol finished with nine points and nine rebounds.

AP

Orlando Magic's Paolo Banchero (5) looks for a shot against Memphis Grizzlies' Santi Aldama (7) during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

THUNDER 117, PISTONS 99

In Detroit, Jalen Williams, the 12th overall pick last summer from Santa Clara, had 16 points and seven rebounds as Oklahoma City beat a Pistons team that lost Marvin Bagley III to a right knee injury.

Lu Dort and Josh Giddey also had 16 points apiece, with Giddey adding nine assists.

Killian Hayes led the Pistons with 20 points and seven assists, while Saddiq Bey finished with 19 points. Cory Joseph and No. 5 pick Jaden Ivey had 11 points apiece.

Bagley left the game in the first minute with the right knee injury. Bagley seemed to slip in the lane defending a fast break and went down, immediately grabbing his knee. He was helped off the court, and Detroit soon announced Bagley, who signed a three-year contract with the Pistons this summer, would not return to the game.

WARRIORS 131, TRAIL BLAZERS 98

JaMychal Green and Moses Moody scored 20 points apiece as a team of Golden State reserves dominated visiting Portland.

James Wiseman, coming back after missing last season with a right knee injury, had 18 points and seven rebounds. Green was 8 of 10 from the field, including missing only one of his five shots from outside the arc. Wiseman, who played 18 minutes, made 6 of 8 from the field.

Shaedon Sharpe, the seventh overall pick from Kentucky, led Portland with 17 points, while Jusuf Nurkic finished with 16 points. Anfernee Simons had 12.

Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Jordan Poole and Andrew Wiggins were among the key Warriors sitting out before Friday's preseason finale against Denver. Draymond Green remained away from the team after he punched Poole during practice last week.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said after the game that Green would return to practice on Thursday and not be suspended. He expects the defensive mainstay to play in Friday's preseason finale, and on opening night.

Kerr said Green was fined an unspecified amount.

"We feel like this is the best way, after assessing everything, for us to move forward," Kerr said, adding: "This is the biggest crisis that we've ever had since I've been coach here. It's really serious stuff."

Donte DiVincenzo, who started with the stars sitting, had 10 assists.

BULLS 127, BUCKS 104

Patrick Williams scored 22 points, along with five rebounds and five assists as Chicago beat visiting Milwaukee, which sat a significant part of its main rotation.

Nikola Vucevic had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, while Andre Drummond added 16 points, connecting on 7 of 9 from the field.

Jordan Nwora led the Bucks with 25 points, five rebounds and three assists, while Marques Bolden finished with 21 points.

The game featured two teams expected to play into the postseason in the Eastern Conference, but the active rosters only had shells of the full squads. The Bucks sat many of their players, including Giannis Antetokounmpo, Jrue Holiday, Serge Ibaka and Grayson Allen, most of them on rest management.

Chicago played without key offensive players Zach LaVine and DeMar DeRozan.

SPURS 111, JAZZ 104

Devin Vassell had 24 points, Keldon Johnson added 22 points to lead visiting San Antonio over Utah.

Vassell shot 10 for 15, including 3 of 5 from outside the arc. Johnson was 9 for 13 as San Antonio's starters combined to make 28 of 43 shots in the game.

Lauri Markkanen had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Utah. Jared Butler had 13 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Jordan Clarkson and Walker Kessler added 12 points apiece.

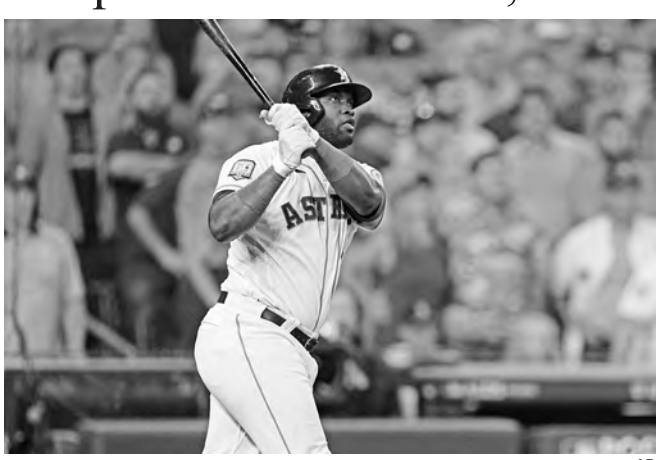
Alvarez 3-run HR caps Astros comeback, 8-7 win over Mariners

HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit a game-ending, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning off Robbie Ray, wrecking Seattle's strategy of using a Cy Young Award winner in a rare relief role and vaulting the Houston Astros over the Mariners 8-7 Tuesday in their playoff opener.

Trailing all game after a poor start by Justin Verlander, the AL West champion Astros overtook rookie star Julio Rodríguez and the wild-card Mariners at the end to begin their best-of-five Division Series.

Houston was down 7-5 when rookie pinch-hitter David Hensley reached with one out in the ninth as Seattle closer Paul Sewald grazed his jersey with a pitch. Sewald struck out Jose Altuve before Jeremy Peña laced a single to center field to chase Sewald.

Ray, who had made only six relief appearances in his career, entered for a lefty versus lefty matchup with Alvarez, who sent the second pitch he faced deep into the seats in right field to set off a wild celebration.



AP

Houston Astros designated hitter Yordan Alvarez (44) hits a three-run, walkoff home run against the Seattle Mariners during the ninth inning in Game 1 of an American League Division Series baseball game in Houston,Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022.

The Mariners jumped on Verlander for six runs in just four innings to build a 6-2 lead early. Yuli Gurriel hit a solo homer in the Houston fourth before Eugenio Suarez's solo shot in the seventh extended Seattle's lead to 7-3.

A two-run homer by Alex Bregman off Andrés Muñoz cut the lead to 7-5 in the eighth inning to set up the dramatic finish.

DODGERS 5, PADRES 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Trea Turner homered and doubled as Los Angeles started fast and held off San Diego Padres in their NL Division Series opener.

Behind 17-game winner Julio Urías, the Dodgers raced to an early 5-0 lead and appeared to be on their way to another blowout of the Padres.

Los Angeles dominated in the regular season, owning a 14-5 advantage and outscoring San Diego 109-47. The 111-win Dodgers claimed the NL West and the Padres finished second, 22 games back.

With Sandy Koufax watching from the owners' box, Urías retired the first eight batters he faced until Austin Nola doubled with two outs in the third.

Chris Martin, who had two saves this season, pitched the ninth for the save. Struggling closer Craig Kimbrel was left off the Dodgers' roster for this best-of-five matchup.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Dodger Stadium before the series shifts south to San Diego.

YANKEES 4, GUARDIANS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Gerrit Cole cruised for most of the night, Harrison Bader and Anthony Rizzo homered and New York beat Cleveland in the teams' AL Division Series opener.

The Yankees have won six straight postseason games against Cleveland, dating to a comeback from a 2-0 deficit in the 2017 Division Series.

Cole got the win in his first postseason game for the Yankees in the Bronx. He left after giving up one run and four hits in 6 1/3 innings with eight strikeouts. Jonathan Loáisiga, Wandy Peralta and Clay Holmes finished with two-hit relief to begin the best-of-five matchup.

Coming off a two-game sweep of Tampa Bay in the wild-card round, Cleveland struck out nine times, after having the fewest in the major leagues during the regular season.

Jose Trevino hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fifth after Isiah Kiner-Falefa reached on a single into the right-field corner and wild-card series star Oscar Gonzalez allowed the ball to bounce throw his legs for a two-base error.

Rizzo chased Cal Quantrill with a drive into the right-field second desk in the sixth after Aaron Judge walked.

Quantrill lost for the first time since July 5. He gave up four runs—three earned—four hits and three walks in five-plus innings.

PHILLIES 7, BRAVES 6

ATLANTA (AP)—Nick Castellanos drove in three runs and made a potentially game-saving catch in the ninth inning, lifting Philadelphia over reigning World Series champion Atlanta in the opener of their NL Division Series.

Game 2 is Wednesday afternoon in Atlanta before the series shifts to Philly.

The Phillies have won three straight games to begin these playoffs, following up their wild-card sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals with a victory over the team that finished 14 games ahead of them in the NL East.

Matt Olson hit a three-run homer in the ninth off Zach Eflin to bring the Braves within a run. Castellanos capped off a brilliant day with his bat and his glove, making a sliding catch in right field for help snuff out the comeback.

Alec Bohm added two RBIs for the Phillies, who built a 7-1 lead by the top of the fifth. Travis d'Arnaud homered and drove in the other three Atlanta runs.

Max Fried failed to get through the fourth inning and was roughed up for eight hits and six runs—two of them unearned. Seranthony Dominguez struck out three in two innings of relief for the win.

Tennis Australia keeps out of Djokovic's visa application

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic won't get official support with lobbying from Tennis Australia should he seek to enter the country for the first major of 2023, a year after he was deported because he was not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The 21-time Grand Slam champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title last January after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament eventually won by Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open but, after traveling to Melbourne believing he had all his paperwork in order, the exemption was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the final tennis match of the ATP 500 Astana Open tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Astana, Kazakhstan, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said Wednesday at a launch for the 2023 event, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government.

"And then, depending on the outcome," Tiley added, "we would welcome him to the Australian Open."

Being deported made Djokovic subject to a possible three-year exclusion period that prevents the granting of a further temporary visa, although Australian Border Force in January said any exclusion period "will be considered as part of any new visa application and can be waived in certain circumstances."

The ABF said each cased is assessed on its merits.

Australia has changed its border rules and, since July 6, incoming travelers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Tiley was heavily criticized for his role in the confusion that led to the then top-ranked player in men's tennis landing in Australia believing he was exempt from strict laws for unvaccinated travelers, then being questioned by border officials for hours at Melbourne Airport before being held in immigration detention.

The main source of confusion was the exemptions granted to Djokovic and some others by the state government and Tennis Australia to participate in the tournament—despite regulations requiring all fans, officials and players be vaccinated for COVID-19—which ultimately still needed to be assessed by border security officials.

Djokovic was allowed to practice at Melbourne Park after some initial success in a court of law, but Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke ultimately used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talisman of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

A recent winner of tournaments in Israel and Kazakhstan, Djokovic can apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status.

Tiley, who is also the Tennis Australia chief executive, said he met with Djokovic in London last month during the Laver Cup and believes the Serbian star holds no bitterness about the saga.

But Tiley stressed that the pair spoke only generally about Djokovic's visa situation.

"He said that he would obviously love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the Federal Government and he accepts that," Tiley said. "If you notice, he is playing a lot of tennis at the end of the year in anticipation and hope there is a successful outcome with his application. But that is up to him."

A review into episode that made global headlines has led to Tennis Australia outsourcing visa applications by players and their entourages to a company specializing in immigration matters.

Tiley said the Australian Open had no plans to follow the lead of Wimbledon, which banned Russian and Belarusian players from competing this year because of the invasion of Ukraine.

But there will be no reference to the nationality of those players, including 2022 Australian Open finalist Daniil Medvedev of Russia and two-time women's singles champion Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, as per tour rules.

Tiley declined to discuss plans for a revamp of the Australian schedule that is expected to include a new mixed-teams tournament featuring 16 nations held across the country prior to the Australian Open.

Such a competition would have similarities to the long-running Hopman Cup, which was held in Perth for three decades prior to the introduction of the ATP Cup in 2020.

Tiley, who promised the return of elite tennis to Perth for the first time since the pandemic while in Western Australia last week, said a summer program will be outlined soon.

"We hope to have our major cities have a major event, a different event, a one of a kind," he said. "We will make that announcement when we are ready to make that announcement.

Turner, Dodgers start fast, hold off Padres in NLDS opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The well-rested Los Angeles Dodgers raced out to a big lead early and hung on against the upstart San Diego Padres.

Trea Turner homered and doubled as the Dodgers won 5-3 on Tuesday night in the NL Division Series opener.

Behind 17-game winner Julio Urías, the Dodgers led 5-0 after three innings and appeared to be on their way to another blowout of the Padres.

Los Angeles dominated in the regular season, owning a 14-5 advantage and outscoring San Diego 109-47. The 111-win Dodgers claimed the NL West and the Padres finished second, 22 games back.

"We've seen a lot of them lately, especially in the last month or so," Turner said. "Kind of knew what to expect. Still have to execute and still have to get the results, but I think we just were ourselves and didn't give anything away."

With Sandy Koufax watching from the owners' box, Urías retired the first eight batters he faced until Austin Nola doubled with two outs in the third.

"We have to give a lot of credit to our offense," Urías said through a translator. "They did a good job battling, getting those runs early and putting us in a good spot to win."

Chris Martin, who had two saves this season, gave up a single in the ninth, when the Padres had the potential tying run at the plate. Struggling closer Craig Kimbrel was left off the Dodgers' roster for this best-of-five matchup.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Dodger Stadium before the series shifts south to San Diego.

"No moral victories, but the latter part of the game was better than the first part for us," Padres manager Bob Melvin said.

"We felt like we had a chance in the latter innings to win this game," he said. "I think everybody is pretty eager to get back out here again."

The Padres were coming off a win in the decisive Game 3 of the wild-card series Sunday night over the Mets in New York.

"We need to put this one behind us and keep competing like we've been doing all year," said Manny Machado, who was 1 for 4 with a strikeout.

The Dodgers, who had five days off after drawing a bye, showed no signs of rust.

In the first, Turner hit a 419-foot shot into the left-field pavilion for his second career postseason homer and first as a Dodger. Two batters later, Will Smith doubled and scored on Max Muncy's two-out single for a 2-0 lead.

The Dodgers batted around in the third, tacking on three more runs.

Turner doubled leading off and after Freddie Freeman flied out, Smith stepped in and doubled to deep left-center, nearly the same spot where Turner's ball landed. Gavin Lux doubled to the right-field corner with two outs, driving in Smith and chasing Mike Clevinger.

Steven Wilson came in and promptly walked Trayce Thompson to load the bases.

Choking up, Cody Bellinger initially was thought to have been hit by a pitch and took first base as Muncy was forced in.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Julio Urias throws to the plate during the first inning in Game 1 of a baseball NL Division Series against the San Diego Padres Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022, in Los Angeles.

But upon video review, it appeared the ball hit the knob of the bat. Bellinger was called back to the plate and Muncy returned to third.

Bellinger was then safe at first on an error by first baseman Wil Myers, scoring Muncy. The ball hit off the heel of Myers' glove and he missed it on the pickup, leaving no chance to make a play on the speedy Bellinger.

The Dodgers' offense—baseball's highest-scoring this season—went quiet after the third. Their lone baserunner was Freeman, who walked. Mookie Betts and Freeman were a combined 0 for 7 with two strikeouts.

The Dodgers hadn't played a must-win game since mid-June before running away with the division. But they found themselves in trouble in the fifth.

That's when the Padres finally got to Urías, closing to 5-3 after he gave up three straight hits.

Myers led off with an opposite-field solo shot to left. Trent Grisham had an RBI grounder that scored Jake Cronenworth, who had singled. Nola's sacrifice fly scored Ha-Seong Kim, who doubled.

San Diego threatened again in the sixth against Evan Phillips, but the defense bailed him out.

Juan Soto drew a leadoff walk. Booed heavily by the crowd of 52,407, Machado followed with an infield trickler that the Dodgers hoped would roll foul. It did not, and went for a single.

After pinch-hitter Josh Bell struck out, Myers came up as the potential go-ahead run.

Myers grounded into an inning-ending double play, started by second baseman Gavin Lux. He flipped to Turner, and the shortstop double-clutched before firing to first to get Myers.

"It's a tough one," Turner said. "He has to kind of make that 360. I'm coming across the bag, so he has to make a good throw to me as well. A lot has to go right to make that play."

Urías allowed three runs and four hits in five innings. The left-hander struck out six and walked none.

Clevinger gave up five runs—four earned—and six hits in 2 2/3 innings. The right-hander struck out three and walked two.

OLD MATES

Turner and Soto greeted each other briefly before the game. They were teammates on the Washington Nationals until Turner joined the Dodgers last season and Soto came to the Padres at this year's trade deadline.

Soto came to Dodger Stadium to cheer on Turner in last year's postseason.

"A mutual respect that we have for each other," Turner said. "We're boys. I know he wants to beat us, as do I want to beat them. I'll probably talk to him after the series is over and in the offseason."

WEIRD WEATHER

The wind picked up in the last couple innings, with the centerfield flags blowing straight out. Rain began falling after the final out, although it didn't last long. The grounds crew had the rare chance to roll out the tarp and cover the infield.

"It was definitely different," Turner said. "We haven't really had that all year."

ROSTER MOVE

Kimbrel had already been demoted from his ninth-inning role two weeks ago after struggling much of the season as the successor to Kenley Jansen, who left as a free agent last winter.

UP NEXT

RH Yu Darvish, who had a 3.10 ERA in the regular season, starts Game 2 for the Padres. LH Clayton Kershaw, the three-time Cy Young Award winner, goes for the Dodgers.

Draymond Green fined but not suspended, set to rejoin team

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Draymond Green has been fined but won't be suspended by the Golden State Warriors for a violent punch to the face of teammate Jordan Poole last week.

Coach Steve Kerr said after Tuesday's preseason win against Portland that Green would return to practice Thursday, then play for the defending NBA champions against Denver on Friday night and again in the season opener Tuesday against the Lakers. Kerr, general manager Bob Myers and players have met to decide how to best proceed—including Green and Poole talking to each other.

"We feel like we have a great feel for our team. We've got a lot of continuity on this team, so Bob and I know our players extremely well," Kerr said. "We feel like this is the best way after assessing everything for us to move forward. It's never easy no matter what decision you make in a situation like this. It's not going to be perfect. This is the biggest crisis that we've ever had since I've been coach here. It's really serious stuff."

Green and Poole met in recent days about the fight and everyone involved has taken part in exhaustive discussions since the incident last Wednesday in practice, Kerr said. Two-time MVP Stephen Curry has led some of those talks.

"We have spent the last week in deep discussions with all of our key figures in the organization, including Jordan and Draymond of course, Steph, all of our players, Bob, myself, and I can tell you there have been a lot of conversations, individual, one-on-one discussions, players-only discussions," Kerr said. "Everything that you can think of, all the different combinations that are possible to have in a conversation, we've had them. It's been an exhaustive process."

AP

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green speaks during an NBA basketball news conference Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at Chase Center in San Francisco, Calif..

Green has been away from the team since the altercation and has been working out on his own every day.

Neither player was injured. The fiery Green has been a key veteran presence, defensive leader and part of Golden State's four championships in eight seasons.

"Any criticism that we face here is fair," Kerr added about the team's decisions, noting "everything was on the table" regarding punishment.

"I support their decision," second-year guard Moses Moody said, ready to welcome Green back.

Video of the punch leaked to TMZ was published Friday. The footage shows Green approaching Poole near the baseline and them coming chest to chest. Poole used both hands to push Green away, then Green punched Poole in the face and sent the fourth-year guard into the wall behind the baseline.

"He broke our trust with this incident but I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt because I think he's earned that, and I think our team feels the same way," Kerr said.

Kerr said an investigation is ongoing into the leak.

Ex-goalkeeper Hope Solo objects to US Soccer equal pay deal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former goalkeeper Hope Solo objected to the equal pay lawsuit between her former teammates and the U.S. Soccer Federation, filing a notice in federal court.

Solo sued the USSF in August 2018 alleging violations of the federal Equal Pay Act and sex status discrimination.

While Solo's case has not progressed to trial, players led by Alex Morgan filed suit against the USSF the following year under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Those players and the USSF reached a proposed $24 million settlement this spring, and U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner in Los Angeles has scheduled a Dec. 5 hearing for final approval.

As part of the settlement, the USSF signed collective bargaining agreements with the unions for the women's and men's national teams calling for equal pay.

Solo filed a notice of objection Tuesday and said she intends to attend the hearing either in person or through or her lawyer.

"It's unfair to ask players to accept as 'fair, adequate and reasonable' a settlement in which the only thing that is described and explained with certainty is how much the lawyers will be paid," Solo said in a statement issued by her lawyer, A.J. de Bartolomeo.

Solo cited $7.9 million of the $22 million settlement fund as going to lawyers.

"Without knowing how much each player —including me for our Title VII claims —will be paid, or when we will get paid, it's impossible for players to determine whether or not the proposed settlement and whatever payment we each receive is fair, adequate or reasonable," she said.

AP

U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo prepares to send the ball toward a teammate during an international friendly soccer match against Japan on June 2, 2016, in Commerce City, Colo.

The USSF had no immediate comment, spokesman Neil Buethe said.

"This historic resolution has been recognized as one of the greatest victories for equal pay," Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the group of suing players, said in a statement. "We look forward to the court's final approval hearing."

OLEI

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place for $150 was also a 5-lbs catch from the boat MV *Villa Marie*, captained by Victor Val Hocog.

In the Total Weight category, first place was the boat *Jernie III*, captained by Keith Espinosa, which had a haul of 127-lbs for $700. The boat *Traveller*, captained by John Cruz, added another $500 for their overall haul of 109.5-lbs. The boat *Don Pedro II,* captained by Joaquin Cruz, received $300 for their 105.5-lbs haul.

The Most Variety category for $200 was won by the boat *Peudi Suette II,* captained by Ignacio V. Lizama Jr. for three different types of fish.

The award ceremony was held at the Chamorro Village at 8pm, where the cash prizes and trophies were handed to the respective winners of each category.

Prior to the derby, a mandatory Fishing Derby orientation was held on Oct. 6.

The sponsors for the derby included the Rota Mayor's Office, 18th Rota Municipal Council, Marianas Visitors Authority, Ambros Inc., Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The Fishing Derby coincided with Rota's annual *"Bisita Luta"* festival and the *San Francisco de Borja Festival*, which brought in new and returning tourists to the island of Rota and all took part in a concert, cultural activities, indigenous cuisine, and many more.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said, "It brings me so much joy to see our people beaming with pride over the food they have caught or prepared, as well as the sense of accomplishment they feel after winning a competition. I am excited about the new competition that we will be having this year, which is the Bisita Luta's longest cast with spinning rod competition."

GLARE

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tistics, show that Rosie Saralu, Keyona Tudela, Edilyn Benjamin, Kiana Aldan, and Sonia Isaac have the most with two. Fifteen other players are tied with one each.

Homeruns, which are harder still, have been hit five times by Kiana Aldan, twice by Heather Kladikm, and once by Rachel Salalila, Rosie Saralu, Erlinda Naputi, Kiana Camacho, Becky Repeki, Janice Celis, Rayna Deleon Guerrero, Allana Sumang, and Victoria Pangelinan.

In the runs batted in category, or RBIs, it's dominated by Marina Kaipat who has 15; Kiana Aldan has 14; Glare Mabel has 12; Catalina Dela Cruz has 11; Rosie Saralu has 10; and Allana Sumang and Becky Repeki have nine each.

On the defensive side, the top pitcher is still Bert Camacho from the Queens of Diamonds, with eight games pitched through 48 innings, an earned run of 14, with 73 hits against her, an earned run average of 2.04, and a seven win and one loss game record.

Second is Eileen Babauta of Tokahao Ladies with four games, 25.1 innings pitched, 15 earned runs, 62 hits, a one win and three loss record, and a 4.18 earned run average.

Third is Kosebakl's Jennie Scaliem with nine games, 55.2 innings pitched, 37 earned runs. 121 hits, a four win and five loss record, and 4.69 earned run average.

The most strikeouts is 39 made by Jennie Scalliem, followed by Felisa Brel's 35, Semerina Simram's 33, Bert Camacho's 31, Annalyn Olupumar's 18, Janice Celis' 15, and Eileen Babauta's 14.

The results of the men's division individual statistics will be posted in the next editions of *Saipan Tribune.*

TMS

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were high as they came into the post-season undefeated throughout the regular season, while the Knights were the underdogs with one loss.

The first half's serenity was broken as the Knights drew first blood and scored their first and only goal in the 11th minute.

They were immediately replicated by the Tatagas three minutes later, when Jayten Villagomez broke through the Knights' defense line, tying up the game quickly, 1-1.

The pressure was on in the second half as the finals were in either teams' grasp, with the ball shooting this way and that. Finally, much to the excitement of the Tatagas and the dismay of the Knights, Javen Camacho pierced the net in the 45th minute for their second and eventual winning goal as the Knights failed to make a comeback, for the final score of 2-1.

The path that led to the championships for the Tatagas was an undefeated one in Group A with three wins, as they cleared every obstacle in their way during the regular season.

In the Gecko's war against the Guardians, the first half came and went with not a single goal on the scoreboard. The teams were evenly matched as both teams were undefeated in the regular season and both could almost taste the finals on their tongues.

Then, in the 23rd minute, the Geckos' Taiga Namai-Scoggins shot a rocket through the Guardians' net for the first goal of the game. Cricket noises were heard for the duration of the first half.

In the second half, the Geckos' Mosehe Sikkel wasted no time as he shot a bullseye in the net during the 30th minute. The Guardians then came back with a renewed vigor as Landon Springer scored the one and only goal in the 37th minute, but they did not have any more goals left in their arsenal as they watched the seconds wind down and the scoreboard read the final score, 2-1.

Likewise with the Tatagas, they remained undefeated throughout the regular season in Group B, with three wins, as each opponent succumbed to their prowess on the field.

Today, the championships will be held at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville at 5:30pm, right after the battle for bronze at 4pm between Mount Carmel School and Saipan Community School.

Banchero scores 16 in home debut, Magic hold off Grizzlies

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Draymond Green fined but not suspended, set to rejoin team

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Olei tops category in Luta Fishing Derby

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The $3,000 check is presented by Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, middle, to the crew of *Olei,* captained by John Hattig, fifth from left, after they won the Marlin category for their 160-lb marlin, in the 2022 Bud Light Luta Fishing Derby last Oct. 7 to 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Captain John Hattig, right, poses with his boat Olei's 160-lb marlin catch, which won them $3,000 during the 2022 Bud Light Luta Fishing Derby last Oct. 7 to 8.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Bud Light Luta Fishing Derby last Oct. 7 and Oct. 8 on Rota reeled in a total of 34 boats, with the boat *Olei*, captained by John Hattig, topping the Marlin category with a whopping 160-lb marlin as the biggest catch.

The crew of *Olei* won $3,000 for their two days of work off the waters of the West Harbor Marina in Songsong, Rota.

In second place with a $1,200 cash prize was the boat *Hiptimco,* captained by Vincent King, for his 121-lb marlin. In third place with a $800 paycheck was the boat *Traveller* captained by John Cruz, with a catch of a 109-lb marlin.

In the Wahoo category, *Almon Rock'R II,* captained by Alfred Taimanao, came in first with a 43.5-lb catch, securing $1,200. Second place for $800 was the boat *Papa San,* captained by Paul Roberto, with a 40.5-lb catch. Third place went to a 39-lb catch from *John Cruz's Traveller* for $500.

For the Yellowfin Tuna category, $700 and first place went to the boat *Jernie,* captained by Keith Espinosa, for their 17.5-lb catch. Second place went to the boat *Ray Ann*, captained by Ray Taitague for their 16.5-lb haul, cashing in $500. Paul Roberto's boat, *Papa San*, added $300 to their money pool for their third place catch of 15.5-lbs.

Over in the Bonito Tuna category, Paul Roberto's *Papa San* brought in an additional $400 to their paycheck, for a total of $1,500, after catching the heaviest fish at 8 lbs. They were followed by MV *Gilita*, captained by Deron Mendiola and received $250 for their 5-lb catch. Third

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Glare Mabel is batting leader in women's division

By LEIGH GASES
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Glare "Clarissa" Mabel of team Lady Eagles is on a roll as twice in a row, she tops the rank of batting leaders so far in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

She topped the batting leaders last Sept. 11 and topped it once more last Oct. 9, with her 23 at-bats, 15 hits, and .650 batting average. She is followed by the Queens of the Diamond's Kiana "Baby K" Camacho with 25 at-bats, with 16 hits, and a .640 batting average. Catalina Dela Cruz from the 670 Babes is ranked third with 23 at-bats, 14 hits, and a .610 batting average.

In other statistics, Kiana Camacho and Emy Oiterong are tied for the most runs scored with 16 each. Kiana Aldan comes right after with 15 runs, and Brittany Lizama and Heather Kladikm are tied with 13. Allana Sumang has 12; Angela Muna has 11; and Becky Repeki, Rosie Saralu, and Sonia Isaac have 10 each.

The most doubles hit is dominated by Mardina Kaipat with six, followed by four from Kayla Kaipat, and Becky Repeki, Catalina Dela Cruz, Kiana Camacho, Glare Mabel, Brittany Luzama, Rayna De Leon Guerrero, and Jennie Scalliem are all tied with three each.

Triples, which are hard to hit and are evident in the sta-

See GLARE on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
Glare "Clarissa" Mabel of the the Lady Eagles team, middle, wearing sunglasses, who is joined here by her teammates, is the women's division batting leader in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

TMS and SIS to vie for soccer championship

By LEIGH GASES
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Tanapag Middle School 1 and Saipan International School will vie for the coveted title of middle school soccer champions for the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League today, at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The TMS 1 Tatagas reached the finals after defeating Mount Carmel School in the semifinals last Tuesday, 2-1; right after, the Geckos faced off with Saipan Community School, defeating them in the same fashion, 2-1.

In the Tatagas' battle against the Knights, the stakes

See TMS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
Saipan International School's Sean Park, left, is in the air after head-butting the ball during one of their games during the 2022-2022 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.